The New-York Times.

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TELEGRAMS.

American Interference in the East Solicited by Russia.

Extraordinary Powers Granted the Government by the Grecian Chamber.

The Brazilian Iron-Clads Repulsed at Viletta.

Destructive Fires in Various Sections of the Country.

THE EASTERN QUESTION.

The United States Invited to Interfere—Action of the Grecian Chamber—Great Power Granted the Government.

LONDON, Saturday, Dec. 26.

A dispatch from Athens, dated on Thursday, 24th, says that the Grecian Chamber has voted the money asked for by the Government. The Chamber also granted the Government full power to raise more if need be, and to make extraordinary levies of men for the army and navy.

A dispatch from Athens, dated Tuesday last, states that the Turkish Government had placed two ships of war on the coast of Cerigo to prevent the departure of Greek volunteers from that island for Crete.

PARIS, Saturday, Dec. 26.

The *Gaulois* (newspaper) says that Russia has urged the United States Government to take part in the Turco-Grecian difficulty.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The Times on the Alabama Claims.

LONDON, Saturday, Dec. 26.

The *Times* this morning has another long editorial article on the subject of the *Alabama* claims. The people of both England and America, the *Times* says, are uneasy in regard to the relations which are to exist in future between the two nations. This uneasiness arises from ignorance of the true state of the negotiations now pending on the *Alabama* question. The *Times* believes that Secretary SEWARD himself obstructs the sentiment, but that the questions will be finally and amicably adjusted under the incoming Administration of President GRANT. REVERDY JOHNSON is not likely to be removed by the new Administration, but will be permitted to remain and complete the work already begun. If Mr. SEWARD seeks to delay the settlement of this important question, he should be humored; but the bases of the protocol, already agreed upon by Lord STANLEY and Mr. JOHNSON, must remain fixed, and will sooner or later command the consent of both countries.

Interview Between Mr. Johnson and a Deputation of Artisans.

LONDON, Saturday, Dec. 26.

Hon. REVERDY JOHNSON yesterday received a deputation of London artisans, who were desirous of founding a colony in Nebraska. Mr. JOHNSON encouraged the project.

SPAIN.

Manifesto from the Duke of Monspensier.

MADRID, Saturday, Dec. 26.

The Duke of Monipensier has published a manifesto, announcing his Liberal views. The *Imparcial* suggests the nomination of the son of the Duke of Montpensier for king under a regency.

CHINA.

Comments on the Recent Acts of the British Authorities.

LONDON, Saturday, Dec. 26.

The *Times* this morning publishes a very able letter from Mr. DILKE, son of the eminent journalist, denouncing the act of violence recently committed by the British authorities at Yangtchow. Mr. DILKE thinks that a repetition of such acts would be more dangerous to the peace between Great Britain and the United States than the *Alabama* question. The *Times*, in its comments, agrees with the writer, and pronounces the outrage a violation of the treaties in existence, and justly offensive to the Chinese Government.

SOUTH AMERICA.

Attack on Villeta by the Brazilian Iron-Clads.

MARSEILLES, Saturday, Dec. 26.

Later advices from Rio Janeiro report that after the failure of the Allies to carry the Paraguayan stronghold at Villeta, the Brazilian iron-clads attacked, but with no better success.

VENEZUELA.

Candidates for the Presidency—The Country Tranquil.

HAVANA, Friday, Dec. 25.

Advices from Venezuela state that Gens. DOMINGO MONAGAS, nephew, and RUPERTO MONAGAS, son of the deceased President MONAGAS, are candidates for the Presidency. The country was tranquil.

HAYTI.

Jacmel Still Besieged—Repulse of the Piquets.

HAVANA, Cuba, Friday, Dec. 25.

Advices from Hayti state that Jacmel continued closely besieged. On the 9th inst. the garrison repulsed the Piquets; both parties sustained heavy losses. SALNAVE's men-of-war hover about the coast. The revolutionists are confident of fortifying the interior.

CUBA.

The Reports of Successes by the Revolutionists.

HAVANA, Friday, Dec. 25.

The city was very much excited yesterday, owing to the prevalence of reports of successes by the revolutionists. These reports were started unquestionably to cause an outbreak in the city and create alarm among the people. Everything is quiet and undisturbed.

The steamship *San Francisco* arrived here yesterday from Vera Cruz on her way to New-York.

MEXICO.

Late Intelligence from the Republic—Proceedings in Congress—Arrival of Gen. Rosecrans.

HAVANA, Friday, Dec. 25.

Advices from Mexico state that two thousand laborers were engaged constructing the Vera Cruz Railroad. Gen. CANTO had been sent to Durango. Gen. QUIROGA was operating against ESCOBEDO.

Petitions had been presented to Congress for the abolition of the death penalty; for the creation of a bank of hypothecates; for the construction of a railroad from the capital, *via* Oaxaca, to the Pacific Ocean; and to create Anton Lisardo as a Pacific port of entry. In Congress also a project of amnesty had been presented, and was under discussion. The journals generally, and Gen. PALACIO, advocate clemency. Congress had organized a Grand Jury to try MEJIA and ROMERO. MEJIA was found not guilty, and the case of ROMERO was undecided. Congress had also approved the project allowing the free export of minerals; proposes the granting of a subvention of $15 per ton to vessels constructed in the Republic; and had conceded the formation of New-Leon into a separate State. The question of forming the new State of Hidalgo was under discussion; also a proposition to export gold and silver bars under the same duty as coined money.

Naval schools are to be established at Campeche and Mazatlan. The exploration of new and abandoned mines was reviving, and the financial and commercial condition of the Republic was critical.

Gens. ROSECRANS and STURNE arrived at the capital on the 2d of December.

SAN FRANCISCO, Saturday, Dec. 26.

Mazatlan advices to Dec. 9 have been received. The legislative and municipal governments were at loggerheads, and trouble was anticipated. Business was at a standstill. The United States steamer *Lackawanna* was to sail for San Francisco in a few days. Arrangements were being made to establish gas works in Mazatlan. Work on the wagon road in Durango had been suspended.

The English gunboat *Pylades* was at San Blas. The steamers *John L. Stephens* and *Colorado* bring 367,000 Mexican dollars from Mexican ports.

SERIOUS FIRES.

Destruction of Valuable Property in Lynn, Mass.—Loss about $300,000—Over 600 People Thrown Out of Employment.

LYNN, Saturday, Dec. 26.

A fire broke out in Lyceum Hall at an early hour this morning, and rapidly spread to other buildings. It destroyed the Lyceum Hall building, occupied by the First National Bank; W. S. PARTRIDGE, clothing dealer; P. B. MANSFIELD, hatter, and Ex-Mayor JOHNSON, insurance agent. The property of the bank is probably safe in the vaults. Frazier's block, a large and costly building, containing the Post Office, was also burned. The letters and principal contents of the Post Office were safely removed. Among the other occupants of the block were the Lynn Light Infantry, who lose all their arms and uniforms; the Sagamore Temple of Honor, the Lynwood Lodge of Good Templars, a temporary theatre of the Boston Theatre company, and WELLS & MUSSO, boot and shoe stitchers, the latter employing a large number of women. Mr. FRAZIER also had a shoe manufactory in the building. The flames next communicated with RUBIES' block, which was destroyed. Among the occupants were WILLIAM H. GALE, SANDERSON & BROTHER, GEORGE H. BEEDE & Co., S. P. DRIVER & BROTHER, and BEEDE & BERRY, all shoe manufacturers. WILLIAM A. ATWELL, dealer in leather, occupied the basement. The firms all had large stocks, the greater part of which were removed before much damage was done. The loss is roughly estimated at $300,000. There are probably 600 people thrown out of employment.

SECOND DISPATCH.

LYNN, Saturday, Dec. 26—Evening.

Some of the principal losses by the fire this morning are as follows: Frazier's Block, valued at $70,000, insured $25,000. Mr. FRAZIER's loss on the stock is $100,000; insured $80,000. Lyceum Hall, valued at $15,000, insured $6,000; Robinson's Block, cost $65,000, insured $40,000; WILLIAM H. GALE's shoe manufactory, loss $25,000; fully insured. SANDERSON & BROTHERS lose $10,000. GEO. BEEDE & Co., $5,000; and DRIVER & BROTHER, $6,000; all insured. All the letters, and everything of value in the Post Office, were saved. The funds and securities of the Central Bank were found safe in the vault.

Powder Mill Burned in Westfield, Mass.

SPRINGFIELD, Mass., Saturday, Dec. 26.

M. W. PERKINS' powder mill at Westfield, was destroyed on Thursday night by explosion and fire, causing a loss of $15,000.

Burning of a Cloth Mill in Rhode Island.

PROVIDENCE, Saturday, Dec. 26.

A mill in Warwick, on the East Greenwich line, owned by RICHARD G. HOWARD and run by Gen. JAMES WATERHOUSE for the manufacture of cassimere, was burned about 4 o'clock on Friday morning. Its loss is estimated at $60,000, which was wholly covered by insurance, as follows: $20,000 in the Boston Manufacturers' Mutual Company, $5,000 in the Worcester Mutual Company, $5,000 each in the Hope and Girard Companies of New-York, and the remainder in several Providence companies.

Large Fire in Kansas.

LAWRENCE, Kansas, Saturday, Dec. 26.

The residence of Gen. GEORGE W. DEITZLER, together with the furniture, was totally destroyed by fire this morning. The loss is estimated at $25,000, and is insured for $17,000 in the North American Company of Philadelphia. It was undoubtedly the work of an incendiary.

Canada Politics—Mr. Howe on the Situation.

HALIFAX, Saturday, Dec. 26.

At a lecture delivered at Cornwallis by Mr. HOWE, one of the audience inquired if he had accepted the situation. Mr. HOWE replied: "Many changes have been rung upon the words, 'accepted the situation.' When King David's son lay sick unto death, David wept grievously, and prayed to the Lord. The child died; then David arose and accepted the situation. In this way have we been obliged to accept the situation; not because we like it, but because we cannot work miracles, and earthly means have been exhausted. If the gentleman means, 'Have I accepted the situation?' I answer 'No.' In August last Sir JOHN A. McDONALD offered me a seat in the Cabinet, with fifteen hundred pounds a year. I not only declined, but informed him that no honorable man on our side of politics could take office until the Confederation scheme had been revised. I am as free and independent of the Dominion Government as I am of the local Government."

The Currency Report—Mr. Binckley on Mr. Van Wyck's Report.

WASHINGTON, Saturday, Dec. 26.

The fractional currency received at the Treasury from the Printing Division, for the week ending to-day, is $455,000; shipments to the Assistant Treasurer at New-Orleans, $100,000; Philadelphia, $100,000; National Banks, $226,289. The Treasurer of the United States holds in trust for National Banks at this date, as security for circulation, $341,942,400, for public deposits, $35,635,350; National Bank currency issued during the week, $94,810. Total to date, $311,388,896. Mutilated bills returned, $10,721,625; notes of insolvent banks redeemed by the United States Treasurer, $900,227; leaving in actual circulation at this date, $2997,67,044 fractional currency. Fractional currency destroyed, $291,084.

Solicitor JOHN M. BINCKLEY, in a card, reviews Representative VAN WYCK's late report, and denies the truth of the statements therein concerning him.

The Troubles in Arkansas—An Investigation to be Made.

MEMPHIS, Saturday, Dec. 26.

A special dispatch to the *Avalanche*, from Little Rock, says: "Gens. BABCOCK and PORTER, of Gen. GRANT's staff, set out on their return to-night. It appears they were not authorized to investigate the militia outrages. All the militia except twenty are to be withdrawn from Lewisburg, and the citizens are to be allowed to form a company of militia of their own, and of the civil authorities of Conway County. The Conway refugees are preparing to return home."

NEW-ORLEANS, Friday, Dec. 25.

Inspector-General AYRES, of Gen. ROUSSEAU's staff, left yesterday for the disturbed portions of Arkansas, under orders to examine into the condition of affairs and report upon the same.

Terrible Tragedy in Georgia—Three Persons Murdered.

AUGUSTA, Ga., Saturday, Dec. 26.

GABRIEL MARTIN and his two maiden sisters, residing in Columbia County, were murdered and robbed on Thursday night, their house set on fire and bodies consumed. Suspicion is said to rest on some negroes residing in the neighborhood as the perpetrators of the deed.

The Rainy Season in California—A Rich "Strike."

SAN FRANCISCO, Thursday, Dec. 24.

It has been raining throughout the State for the past three days. For the twenty-four hours ending at 8 A. M. to-day, the rain guage shows one and a half inches.

The first and second mates of the ship *Santee*, to-day, were sentenced to the State Prison, the first for two years, and the second for one year, for inhuman treatment of two apprentice boys during a voyage from New-York.

The steamer *Colorado*, from Panama, arrived to-day.

Another rich strike, equal, if not superior to the famous Eberhardt mine, is reported in the White Pine district of Nevada. One of the mines is estimated to yield at the rate of $1,500 per ton.

Suicide of Mrs. Dickens, said to be the Widow of Mr. Charles Dickens' Brother.

CHICAGO, Saturday, Dec. 26.

Mrs. AUGUSTUS N. DICKENS, said to be the widow of AUGUSTUS DICKENS, brother of CHARLES DICKENS, the celebrated novelist, committed suicide yesterday at No. 508 North Clark-street, by taking an overdose of morphine. She sent her children to the home of her brother-in-law, Mr. LAWRENCE, on Christmas Eve to take part in getting up a Christmas tree. They remained there over night, and on their return home discovered their mother on the floor dead. Mrs. DICKENS was 35 years of age, and leaves three children. She has suffered much lately from poverty, being dependent almost entirely upon her friends for the necessaries of life.

The Malden Murder—Arrest of Suspected Parties.

BOSTON, Saturday, Dec. 26.

JAMES C. LILLIES and EDWARD RUTH are under arrest on suspicion of being concerned in the murder of FAULKNER, the Malden watchman. Both are young men, and are said to have been in prison for crime.

Fire in Richmond, Va.—Loss $30,000.

RICHMOND, Va., Saturday, Dec. 26.

The distillery of R. SEDGWICK, the plaster-mill of ALLEN & MAGRUDER, and seven small dwelling-houses on Thirty-sixth-street, were destroyed by fire to-day. Loss $30,000.

Miscellaneous Telegrams.

BOSTON, Dec. 26.—The jury of inquest into the murder of DAVID S. FAULKNER, the Malden watchman, returned a verdict of death caused by a pistol shot by persons unknown to the jury. RUTH and LILLIES, who were arrested on suspicion, were remanded to jail to await an examination.

BUFFALO, Dec. 26.—The severe snow-storm which occurred here on Christmas Day has not impeded travel. All trains running into this city from the East and West, and from Canada, are on time.

PROVIDENCE, Dec. 26.—SAMUEL WILKINSON, a well-known citizen of Pawtucket, was killed by the cars at the Pawtucket depot this noon.

COLFAX.

His Reception in Springfield—A Serenade and a Brief Speech.

From the Springfield (Mass.) Republican, Dec. 26.

The reception of our excellent Vice-President elect, SCHUYLER COLFAX, at the pleasant rooms of the Springfield Club in Shaw's block, last evening, was in every way satisfactory. Before the announced hour of 8 o'clock, the parlors were occupied by the gentlemen of the Club, and many of the best men and fairest women of this city, rich as it is in these respects. And a large but most civil crowd had gathered around the rooms when, shortly after 8, Mr. COLFAX, with his wife on his arm, entered under the guidance of his host, since Christmas Eve, Mr. SAMUEL BOWLES. Soon, on taking their station in the long *salle*, began the long martyrdom of hand-shaking. Mr. COLFAX is surely the most popular of our public men, and justly so. Last night he stood there, grasped the hands of some 5,000 people, with always a genial and natural smile, and often a quick pleasantry, and despite the wearisome ordeal, he looked the most enviable of men. Especially so, when one looked on the countenance of the lady at his side. Mrs. COLFAX has a face of fine intellectual beauty, and a dignified and affable grace as winning as her husband's, and as ready for the friendly touch of each hand; for she paid the full penalty of wedding a servant of the people, and all there had a smile and a bow from both. Meantime, as the long array, only to be counted by thousands, defiled in and out again, the armorers, with their good band, tendered Mr. COLFAX the compliment of a serenade in the street below, and after some appropriately selected music, they too joined the crush above. At about 9 o'clock President H. S. HYDE, of the Club, called for order, and while Mrs. COLFAX gratefully accepted a seat, the Vice-President mounted a chair, and spoke briefly and gracefully, thus:

"I am very glad to have the opportunity of looking into your faces and receiving your greetings, as I have done for the minutes I have spent in this club-room this evening. I have to thank the club who have so honored me in tendering the use of their pleasant rooms, the ladies of the city and the armorers who, with their band, have given me the additional compliment of a serenade. I came here to visit an old friend, with whom I have twice made long trips, once across the continent, and again almost as far; riding on the plains, climbing the mountains, chased by Indians—all in his company; and I came, as I said, to have a quiet time—as I see it is here to-night. It is the misfortune of public men that they seem to belong to the public; they cannot attend a New-England dinner or make a Christmas visit, without being called upon for a speech. And yet it is good fortune, too, to behold here the beauty and grace of Springfield; and its strength, too, the sturdy sons of toil. All the emotional part of my nature is with the ladies—naturally so, under my present circumstances—all the patriotic part goes out to these armorers who, in our civil strife, armed a regiment each day. I am glad again to visit New-England; unfortunately, as I said in New-York the other night, I was not born in New-England, nor was my ancestry thence, but I have received so many and so great kindnesses here, that I may feel myself New-England's, if not by birth, yet surely by election. It is not fitting that I should speak here of the questions which have, of late, divided our country. If I should follow in the path of my great chief, Gen. GRANT, beside whose name mine stands, it might be as well. But Gen. GRANT has spoken so well in his deeds that he no doubt thinks it needless to use words, and so leaves that to my share. And upon this Christmas day, which commemorates so blessed and joyous an event, and around which cling only cheery and happy associations; on which people of every nation and clime of the Christian world, in whatever they differ, agree in rejoicing—it is right to say on this anniversary that we are all happy; in our nation, in the recognition accorded her throughout the world, and in our chosen President. Yes, every loyal heart is happy to-night; Gen. GRANT is happy; I am happy!"

This little speech was interspersed with occasional cheers and laughter at its good points, some of which were emphasized by the presence of the speaker's wife. Then the hand-shaking recommenced, and continued for some two hours more, during a part of which time the Armory band discoursed more sweet music in one of the parlors. The Springfield club conducted the ceremonies and graduated the crush of people in a most courteous and capable manner. Mr. COLFAX and his wife leave the city this morning for Troy, there to become the guests of JOHN A. GRISWOLD for the remainder of the holidays; and they take with them the hearty good will of Springfield.

THE ALABAMA CLAIMS.

Reported Draft of the Proposed Concessions to England.

From the Philadelphia Evening Bulletin.

WASHINGTON, Saturday, Dec. 26—12 M.

Since it has become known that the negotiation for the *Alabama* claims has been received, your correspondent has endeavored to ascertain the kind of agreement which would be ratified by the Senate, if sent to it by the President. Many prominent Senators, including members of the Committee on Foreign Relations, have had an interchange of opinion on this subject, and after a careful survey, it is found that the following draft contains all the concessions to England which would stand any chance of being considered or ratified by the Senate:

First—The British Government must admit its pecuniary liability for the depredations of the *Alabama, Shenandoah, Florida* and *Sumter*, and agree to pay an amount of money which shall be determined by a joint commission, to be hereafter appointed.

Second—A commission of four members shall be agreed upon—each nation appointing two, and these jointly selecting an umpire.

Third—This commission shall adjust all claims presented to them by American citizens which arose out of the depredations committed by any of the above-named privateers, and shall investigate each case, and decide what amount of money is due for said claims.

Fourth—After this class of claims are settled, the commission shall pass upon all other classes of claims by American citizens against England, from 1853 up to the present time.

The commission will likewise consider all claims of British subjects against the United States in the following class of cases:

First—All cases presented by British subjects residing permanently in the United States.

Second—All cases in which the claimant is unable to show that he remained neutral during the late civil war.

Third—Those cases decided finally by Admiralty Courts.

The above draft contains the largest concessions which those Senators who have studied the question thoroughly are willing to make; and anything which falls short has but little chance of ratification by the Senate.

It has not been ascertained whether or not this draft differs materially from Mr. SEWARD's views.

AFFAIRS IN SPAIN.

The Cadiz Insurrection—The Elections—Apprehended Metropolitan Disturbances—Legal and Judicial Reforms—Another Republican Programme—Brigandage.

From Our Own Correspondent.

MADRID, Wednesday, Dec. 9, 1868.

You will have received by the cable before this reaches you several different versions of the insurrection at Cadiz. The monarchical organs, of course, hastened to cast the blame of it on the Republicans, but it is now pretty well established that the movement was a reactionary one, and had been brought about by a free distribution of money among the scum of the population, both of that city and Port Saint Marie, where it originally commenced. A portion of the troops which had arrived in Cadiz to embark for Cuba, and whose discontent with their destination rendered them easy objects of seduction to the agents of the reaction, were drawn into the revolt, and this rendered the struggle all the more sanguinary. The affair was skillfully contrived, and is said to have been directed on the part of the insurgents by a General attached to the fortunes of the Ex-Queen. I know it is denied by some of the journals, which are interested in throwing the odium of this affair on the Republican Party, that any of the soldiers or rural guards took part in the movement, but there are abundant proofs of the fact. That it had no sort of sympathy from or understanding with the leaders of the party throughout the country, is manifest from the prompt offers of support made by the latter to the Government. There can be no question as to their sincerity, for they have everything to lose and nothing to gain by acts of violence. They cannot be expected to be always able to exercise a check over the pretended converts to the Republican ranks, who make use of the popular flag to promote their reactionary projects, but wherever disturbances occur from the manœuvres of these men, the fact is easily to be detected, from the character of the persons with whom they are associated and the abstinence of all respectable Republicans from a participation in their acts. Among the originators of the disturbances in Port Saint Marie and Cadiz, there is a large number of escaped convicts and other criminals, and this fact alone would suffice to prove to you, that a party which desires to arrive peaceably and constitutionally at its objects, can have no interest in common with these disturbers of the public peace.

Although at last accounts the insurgents had not as yet surrendered, their submission was evidently only a question of a few hours. The overpowering force concentrated against them under the orders of Gen. CABALLERO DE RODAS, one of the ablest and most energetic officers in the service, and the coöperation of the vessels of war in the harbor hold out to them only that alternative. On the whole, I think this affair is not to be regretted. It will reassure the country as to the firmness and energy of the Government; will render the Republicans more earnest than ever in their desire not to be confounded with the Reactionists and other disturbers of public order, and will probably insure a peaceable vote at the elections—a consummation devoutly to be wished for.

Among the many curious reports in circulation in connection with the Cadiz outbreak, was one to the effect that agents of the United States had been concerned in instigating it. It seems to be the policy of a certain party here (the Montpensier men) to excite all the ill-feeling possible toward our Government and people. Hence the ridiculous stories set afloat about our filibustering projects against CUBA, and the later invention of the display of the Stars and Stripes in broad bunting over the entrance of the American Legation, on the occasion of the late Republican manifestation in Madrid. Mr. HALE was in Paris when this occurrence was said to have taken place, but on his return here he took care to have the statement at once contradicted.

THE ELECTIONS.

The decree published by the Government fixing the period of the elections has tended greatly to tranquillize the public anxiety. Their postponement to the 15th of January and the consequent impossibility of the assemblement of the Cortes before the 11th of February, are matters for regret, but the fact that the frail vessel on which the popular liberties is embarked is in sight of port, and that there is a reasonable prospect of its reaching it, is a subject of congratulation for all but the enemies of the revolution. The excuses offered in the decree for the long delay interposed between the inauguration of the Provisional Government and the convocation of the Cortes are plausible but not convincing. The nation will not be easily brought to believe that it was not sought, thereby to substitute the will of the men at present at the head of affairs for that of the constituent assembly. It is only when it is found that they cannot agree among themselves as to the choice of a candidate that they leave the people a chance of deciding their own destinies.

APPREHENDED DISTURBANCES IN THE CAPITAL.

A proclamation of Señor RIVERO, announcing that as a means of necessity, the pay of the workmen employed by the municipality would be reduced a real a day, and work refused to those who were not domiciled in Madrid, led to great agitation here on Sunday evening. The class affected by this decision assumed quite a menacing attitude, and at one time it was feared that public tranquillity would be troubled. Happily, these apprehensions were not realized. The commandants of the battalions of the Volunteers of Liberty (National Guards) waited on Gen. PRIM, and offered to be responsible for the maintenance of order if the care of the city was left in their hands, and the military kept to their barracks. The proposal was wisely acceded to, and as soon as the public learned the fact confidence was at once restored. Not only was there no attempt on the part of the workmen to disturb the public peace, but a disarmament of a large number of them was quietly effected by the volunteers. It is said that, in one batch, upward of 400 muskets were recovered from them. The military were kept under arms in their barracks, so as to be ready to second the National Guard if required; but the confidence felt in themselves by this patriotic body was borne out by the results, and no occasion presented itself for their services. The precedent thus set will have a beneficial effect in teaching the Government to rely more upon the National Guard and less upon the soldiers. Had the military been employed to overawe the workmen, it is probable that the latter would have been maddened into resistance, and that the streets of the capital would have flowed with blood. It is by practical lessons of this sort that the people are trying to convince their rulers that the true policy of a Government bent on securing the triumph of constitutional institutions, is to do away with, or at all events greatly reduce the army. Until this be done, there will never be any guarantee for the popular liberties in Spain.

LEGAL AND JUDICIAL REFORMS.

One of the measures of the Government which has been most warmly praised by the organs of all parties, is the recent decree of the Minister of Justice depriving the military tribunals of the jurisdiction heretofore enjoyed by them over civil and criminal matters in which foreigners are concerned, and also suppressing the Chambers of Commerce. From the 5th of January next, foreigners will no longer be amenable to the military and naval tribunals, and all cases at present pending before the latter in which they are involved are removed to the regular Courts. Those who have had the misfortune to have to do with the former, and who have suffered by their tedious and costly forms of procedure and arbitrary decisions, will appreciate the benefits conferred by this reform. Beside the chances of justice offered by the regular tribunals, the foreign suitor will have the additional guarantee presented by the Royal Court and the High Court of Appeal. The suppression of the tribunals of commerce is also a great boon to foreigners, and will do much toward encouraging confidence on the part of those transacting business with Spanish houses. Hitherto it has been exceedingly difficult for foreigners to enforce the payment of debts due to them in this country. The tribunals of commerce were literally fortresses of chicanery, behind which fraudulent debtors sheltered themselves. It was almost impossible to get a swindling concern of any kind, whether on a large or small scale, wound up without incurring delays, expenses and obstacles, which wore out the patience of the suitor. Those who had most money to expend in corruption had the best chance of defeating the claims of justice; and, consequently, those who were victimized by roguish debtors felt no disposition to incur a second fleecing. Now the regular tribunals will have cognizance of these matters, and if justice be defeated before one of them, there will be others to appeal to, whose decisions will be above suspicion. For the future, therefore, the trade of foreign countries with Spain will be relieved from the artificial checks and obstacles which have been allowed to interfere with its growth. This, with a prudent revision of the tariff, which will neither preserve an undue amount of protection for native manufactures nor yet unfairly depress them, will do much toward promoting the internal activity and prosperity of the country.

ANOTHER REPUBLICAN PROGRAMME.

The Central Republican Committee have been circulating throughout the country another programme of government, of which the following are the heads: Immediate suppression of the Ministry of War, the Supreme tribunal, the General Directions, the Consultative Commission, the Captain-Generalships, and Military Governments. The total disbandment of all the soldiers and corporals of the army. The abolition of the conscription. The creation of a General-in-Chief dependent on the National Assembly. The creation of a number of army corps equal to that of the Federal States, on the basis of the popular enrollment, with the number of divisions and brigades corresponding to its effective. Admission into the Republican army of the generals, chiefs, officers and sergeants of the present army, with an allowance of four fifths of their garrison pay, and in the field with the pay which the regulations may determine; absolute independence between the volunteers and the *cadre* in time of peace; absolute obedience in time of war, or when the men are summoned to arms by the National Assembly; absorption by the Ministry of Finance of all business that relates to the administration of the army; attribution of all military constructions and *materiel* to the Minister of Fomento, as constituting portions of the public works, under direction of a facultative corps of the army; creation of a superior Military Junta, presided over by the General-in-Chief or the second in command, who may be conjoined with him for this function, to study out and propose to the National Assembly all ameliorations and reforms, and to enlighten its views in regard to all special questions, the said officer to have a staff specially devoted to his service; organization of special branches of the military service by means of volunteer engagements and periods of military service; creation of a general military school; revision of certificates of service, and annulment of grades not justified; suppression of military privileges in time of peace; the largest immovability possible in military grades, in order that they may not be converted into political functions.

The above scheme embodies in great part the suggestions which I have from time to time thrown out in my letters, regarding the reform of the present military system of Spain. In one respect it goes further. I do not believe that it would be wise to disband the whole of the regular army, for with all the desire of the Government to keep out of foreign complications, circumstances will arise in which it will become necessary for it to measure its strength with other Powers. Unless it preserves the nucleus of a regular army with its constant enforcement of discipline, it will be taken in such cases at a disadvantage. Militia and volunteers acquire far more quickly the habits and training of veterans when they serve in the ranks with a sprinkling of old soldiers, than when they have to learn progressively from their own experience. For this reason in any reduction that may take place of the regular army in Spain, care should be exercised to preserve such a nucleus of the veteran element as will serve to infuse a proper spirit into the raw levies. The system pursued by the United States is the proper one, and should the Government of Spain become thoroughly democratic, it is probably that which will be adopted here. There is not a man in the country, who is animated by the least spark of patriotism, who is not of opinion that the reduction of the army to this point has become absolutely necessary to its progress. It is a very different thing, however, to insist upon the total disbandment of the men composing it. That involves the question of the proper defence of the country, which, I maintain, cannot be secured without the nucleus of a regular army. A standing force of fifteen or twenty thousand regular troops would be sufficient for the purpose, without its inspiring any fears for the safety of popular institutions.

BRIGANDAGE.

I am sorry to tell you that the brigands have commenced stopping the railway trains. This is a bad symptom, and if frequently repeated will tend to confirm the impression formed by timid people that the country is gradually progressing toward a condition of anarchy. The first attempt of this kind was made last week on the line between Montoro and Cordova. A number of men took possession of one of the stations previous to the approach of the mail train, and after imprisoning the employes in a room, dressed themselves in their railway uniforms and quietly awaited the arrival of the train. The night was cold and pitch dark, and on the engineer and conductor descending to get a drink they were seized and confined with the other employes, several men keeping guard at the door with loaded muskets. The mails were thoroughly sacked, and after the robbers had secured a large amount of booty, the train was allowed to proceed. At Astorga the house of a judge was pillaged last week by a band of thieves, and the magistrate and an old female domestic assassinated. The necessity of a regularly constituted Government, strong in the respect and confidence of the people, is making itself more and more felt every day. Will the Cortes give us this? I doubt it.

Elopement and Marriage of a Boy and Girl—The Youthful Lovers Separated.

From the St. Clair (Mich.) Republican.

On Sunday week an elopement and marriage took place at Marine City, the parties being a young man, aged 17, and a young lady, aged 14, both belonging to families moving in the first circles of society in that place. The affair has created considerable excitement and talk at Marine City, and also at this place, as it contains all the elements of a domestic romance, without, however, the auspicious termination which usually accompanies these fictitious episodes of love's vicissitudes. The young man is named ALBERT GRAVES, and is a cousin of Hon. N. S. BOYNTON, our Representative elect to the State Legislature. ALBERT has been paying his addresses to Miss SUSIE WESTCOTT, daughter of D. H. WESTCOTT, Esq., for over a year past, and they became deeply enamored of each other. The attention of the parents of both parties was directed to their wooing, and a strong and determined opposition was raised. Stolen meetings were held, however, but these were discovered by the parents, and still stronger efforts were made, and they were for some time closely watched and guarded; but love laughs at bolts and bars, and these restrictions only excited within their breasts still stronger devotion and attachment.

Feeling that they were cruelly treated, they determined to make one bold stroke for freedom and happiness. On the afternoon of Sunday, the 13th inst., without consulting their relatives, and accompanied by a male friend, they jumped into a cutter and drove over to D. F. HART, Esq., whose residence is about two miles west of Marine City, and were there and then united by the latter gentleman in wedlock. The parents of the young lady missed her, and after a little search, got an inkling of what was going on. A brother of the young lady, with a friend, D. LESTER, Esq., got into a cutter and made chase, but arrived too late. Considering that discretion was the better course, they thought it was best to look over the affair, and invite the young-married couple home. Accordingly they started on ahead to see the old folks, and instructed the young couple to follow at a safe distance. They imagined that the old folks could be quieted and reconciled, but in this they counted without their host. The father of the bride had taken a position where he could see the young folks come into the village, and the brother and friend did not happen to see him. When the cutter came driving up the old gentleman halted it, and, after a short tussle with the bridegroom, in which his superior size and strength gave him a decided advantage, took his daughter out of the cutter and forced her to go home, at the same time telling the young man that he might "travel." The girl, reluctant and sobbing as if her heart would break, followed her father home, while the young man, downhearted, took for the time being another course. The parents of each were exasperated, and they jointly determined to break up the marriage. They ascertained, through legal advice, that the laws of the State did not sanction marriages where the male contracting party was under eighteen and the female under sixteen, and that under the circumstances of the present case, the tie could be severed with but little difficulty. This they determined to do. Close watch was kept over the young lady, but she managed to escape, and made her way to a neighbor's house, where ALBERT, being sent for, no sooner appeared than she was again forced to return to her home. Negotiations were kept up all through Monday to bring about a reconciliation of the old folks, but all to no effect. On Tuesday morning early the young bride, under charge of her father and brother, was taken to Detroit to be placed in a convent, there to remain until she arrived at a mature age or gave up the object of her affections.

DIVORCE.

A Few Statistics from Chicago—Nearly Five Hundred Applications During the Year.

From the Chicago Times, Dec. 25.

During the present year of grace 284 wives and 176 husbands have filed petitions for divorce in the various Courts in the city. These lachrymose persons, telling the sins of the defendants upon their finger ends and praying nightly for relief, throng the Courts and press their suits with overwhelming importunity. They have been trooping up during all the months and weeks of the year, pouring a continuous plaint into the ears of patient justice, and making the high places of chancery ring again with the sometime touching but now rather wearisome tale of misplaced affection and broken vows. This imposing procession, graced by so large a number of virtuous dames and honorable men, has already consumed many years in passing a given point, and there are no signs of the beginning of the end. Fortunately the present purpose has only particularly to do with that portion of the train upon whose banners is inscribed—as the year of hope, or of deliverance—"1868." And there are 460 men and women, all told.

It will be observed by all candid persons, that, in point of magnitude, the above is a very respectable number. It might have been greater, perhaps, without producing any general catastrophe; it might have been somewhat less without endangering the reputation of the city as the great divorce centre. But, as it stands, it must be regarded as a very creditable exhibit of the industry of those societies who make the business a specialty, and as a substantial monument to the reverence for the nuptial obligations which obtains in the households of Chicago. In some manner, too, the divorce achievement of 1868 will get to be heralded as another of the manifold wonders in which the enterprise of our people finds expression. It will, doubtless, be assigned a place among the many irresistible statistics which are put forth from time to time by benevolent citizens for our glory among posterity. The fact that the annual divorce record is ignored in the reports by the Board of Trade, by no means involves the conclusion that the value of these figures is not appreciated by that erudite and sagacious body. Considerations of a purely personal character, which would render its publication distasteful to a considerable proportion of its membership, may have been the sole reason for its omission.

This work of family dismemberment which is progressing in Chicago will probably suggest forebodings to those eminently well-meaning persons, of a dyspeptic turn, who are predestinated to morbid views of things. And it is to be admitted that all the facilities for accomplishing this purpose which any rational being could ask for, are afforded here with the same liberality which, in so many other respects, characterizes this great metropolis.

The details of the year's struggle in this branch of litigation show that out of 460 suits, the whole number brought during the year, 284 were commenced by wives and only 176 by husbands, leaving a balance of 176 in favor of the superior enterprise of the dear creatures. In the matter, too, of obtaining decrees, the wives lead the husbands by 113 cases. They are also ahead in another respect. Forty-one wives were found to have committed adultery, while the number of husbands upon the same score was only thirty-nine. In regard to cruelty and drunkenness, the husbands are, of course, greatly in the majority, though it appears, nevertheless, that the gentler sex has not wholly abandoned the broomstick, and that an unwarrantable degree of inebriety has been indulged in by some few members of that highly esteemed organization. The progress of the divorce epidemic during the year may also be noted with profit. Its greatest ravages occurred in June. Both sexes were on the rampage about that time. Prudent persons will mark the month as very dangerous. There were also many victims in March and October. In the case of March, the prevalence of east winds probably contributed greatly as a predisposing cause. In the case of October, the excess is mainly due to the fact that about that time many persons are making their domestic arrangements for the Winter. But these reasons do not hold good as to the month of June. The unusual liability to become a victim to a divorce suit during that month must be left unaccounted for. During the year there has been an increase in the number of divorce suits commenced of 122 over the number brought in 1867, and an increase in the number of decrees granted of 132.

THE HILL MURDER.

Continuation of the Trial of George S. Twitchell, Jr.—The Line of Defence.

From the Philadelphia Evening Bulletin, Dec. 26.

The crowd in and about the Court-room this morning was as large as upon any previous day. The prisoner was in the dock, looking as usual—perfectly self-possessed. At 10:30 o'clock, before Mr. PRATT resumed his opening, Mr. MANN asked permission to cut from the shirt-bosom one of the numerous spots of blood, in order to have it examined by the expert for the defence.

The Court declined to accede to the request. Mr. PRATT resumed his opening for the defence. He asked the jury to be patient, and not to form a judgment until the case was at an end. The defence would prove that the wounds on Mrs. HILL's head could not have been inflicted with a poker; that JOSEPH GILBERT was not to be believed; and, further, that the *Commonwealth* was mistaken when it asserted that no one was in the house except the prisoner; that Mrs. HILL frequently said that the house was for her children; and, further, that the prisoner was not pecuniarily embarrassed.

At 11 A. M. Mr. PRATT concluded for the defence. He stated that as it was the darkest hour just before the dawn, so it is now the darkest hour for the prisoner at the bar. The clouds that have been lowering over his head since this protracted trial began are about to be dissipated by the sunshine of truth. The Commonwealth have endeavored to establish certain points as links in the chain of circumstantial evidence going to show the guilt of the prisoner.

First—That Mrs. HILL was murdered.

Second—That the deed was done by the poker.

Third—The blood upon defendant's clothing.

Fourth—The missing money.

Fifth—The conspiracy to get and keep the house at Tenth and Pine.

Sixth—The evidence of Mr. Jos. Gilbert.

Seventh—The distress of defendant.

Eighth—Statement that there was no other person in the house.

As to the first, we cannot deny the terrible fact that Mrs. HILL was murdered.

As to the second, we will be prepared to show that such wounds as were found upon the scalp and skull of defendant could not be produced by such an instrument as the poker.

Third—We will be able to show by persons entitled to credit, by experts of experience, and by other testimony, that the blood upon the defendant's clothing could have been got there after the body was found in the yard.

Fourth—We will establish the fact that, notwithstanding the vigilance of a skilled detective-police force, and the earnest and unceasing efforts of the officers of the law, not one dollar or one penny of the missing money has been traced to the defendant's possession.

As to the fifth point of the Commonwealth's case, we have testimony not to be disputed that the house at Tenth and Pine streets was purchased and given to CAMILIA E. TWITCHELL, wife of the prisoner, and that since the purchase the deceased has been constantly giving to her daughter furniture, and that all the furniture in the house, except the piano, was the property of defendant's wife, purchased in her name.

Sixth—As to the evidence of JOSEPH GILBERT, we will show that no reliance whatever is to be placed upon it. We will show from witnesses of the highest respectability and credit, that JOSEPH GILBERT's character for truth is not to be depended on.

Seventh—It is our purpose to show that defendant's credit in the community was good, and he could have raised any reasonable amount of money if his necessities required it.

The Commonwealth have laid much stress upon their statement that there were no other persons in the house but the prisoner and his wife. We content ourselves now by stating in all sincerity that there were other persons there.

We ask you to bear with us, gentlemen of the jury, until the conclusion of our case; until you hear all that we have to offer. Suspend your judgment until the conclusion of the case; and then, if we establish a reasonable doubt of the prisoner's guilt, we shall claim that you cannot withhold from the prisoner at the bar the full benefit of it. We ask simply the justice to which the defendant is entitled, and which any of you may at some time, under the force of circumstances, be compelled to ask from a jury of your peers.

At the close of Mr. PRATT's address it was stated by the Court that the District-Attorney had consented to have one of the spots cut from the shirt, provided the piece was cut from the shirt in open Court, in the presence of all the experts, and by the sanction of the Court.

THE INDIAN TROUBLES.

Letters from Gen. Sheridan to Gen. Sherman—The Peace Commissioners.

From the St. Louis Republican, Dec. 24.

Letters of a recent date have been received at military headquarters from Gen. SHERIDAN and Gen. HAZEN, the substance of which was stated to our reporter by Gen. SHERMAN. In a letter from Gen. SHERIDAN, under date of Dec. 5, from Fort Supply, near the Antelope hills, he states that he would start on the following day for Fort Cobb, the headquarters of the Indian district, to confer with Gen. HAZEN, and complete all necessary arrangements for protecting the peaceable Indians from the operations of our soldiers now in the field, who were in pursuit of the hostile tribes. Gen SHERIDAN enumerates many facts to show that Black Kettle's camp was a hostile camp, in which were found six fresh scalps, just brought in, and the mail taken from the body of the expressman who was killed by the savages operating on SHERIDAN's rear.

The letter from Gen. HAZEN contains a report of transactions at Fort Cobb, up to Nov. 30, three days after the fight on the Washita. He reports that on the 20th of November, seven days before the battle, Black Kettle was at Fort Cobb, and he had a talk with the Chief; that he (Gen. HAZEN) distinctly told Black Kettle that he and his people were considered to be at war, and that he (Gen. HAZEN) would give them no protection or advantage from his establishment at Fort Cobb, until he (Black Kettle) had made terms with Gen. SHERIDAN, then in the field. It would, therefore, appear that Black Kettle knew he was not under the protection of the United States. This circumstance is deemed important to be explained by the military authorities, in order to a proper understanding of the matter, as it is in this particular, that CUSTER's attack differs essentially from CHIVINGTON's, at Sand Creek, the Indians in the latter case, being at the time, under the protection of the United States military authorities.

Gen. HAZEN's letter contains accounts of the Washita fight, which created considerable alarm among the friendly Indians assembled around Fort Cobb, among whom were the Caddoes, Witchataws, and some bands of the Comanches, Kiowas and Apaches. Numbers of these Indians had come in, and were camped on the south side of the Washita River.

Gen. SHERMAN's instructions are to strike all hostile Indians, and cluster those that are friendly about Fort Cobb, under Gen. HAZEN. By the state of war now existing and commenced by the Indians, the treaty made at Medicine Lodge Creek is not considered binding, and no Indians are permitted to hunt on grounds outside the reservation where they were entitled to roam by the treaty. Their rights in this respect are declared forfeited. Information has been received of the death of Roman Nose, a bad Indian who refused to come in at Medicine Lodge Creek. He was a principal chief of the Dog soldiers. He was killed by the troops under Gen. E. A. CARR, near the headwaters of the Republican, some six weeks ago.

With regard to the Peace Commissioners, there is a mistaken idea, obtained from occasional telegraph specials, that they are about to assemble again in Washington. This is not the case, as at their last meeting in Chicago the proposition to adjourn at the call of the President was defeated, and the motion to adjourn *sine die* was carried 6 to 1, Commissioner TAYLOR voting in the negative. The proposition providing for the transfer of the Indian Bureau to the War Department was also carried, with the exception of TAYLOR's vote, Col. TAPPAN even voting in the affirmative.

Details of Gen. Sheridan's Recent Movements.

From the Kansas City (Mo.) Journal, Dec. 6.

From W. H. ENFIELD, an army guide, who is just in from SHERIDAN's command, we learn the following of the movements of our military on the plains:

Gen. SHERIDAN left Camp Supply for Fort Cobb on the 11th inst. His movements were toward the hostile tribes of redskins on the Wachita River. He has never "massacred" the poor Lo family without just cause. Black Kettle was among the first who committed the depredations on the Solomon, and then crossed the Arkansas River for the border of Texas, there to carry on a murderous war with tribes of peaceable Indians which are now recognized as citizens of the United States. The Sioux, Cheyennes and other tribes that are now carrying on this war, can never be made to remain on their reservations until they have a few more such punishments inflicted on them as the Custer fight. Black Kettle knew that he was going to be killed as soon as he heard the first gun fired from the white man's rifle. He had many scalps dangling to his belt, of white women and men.

On the 19th inst. the Kansas Volunteers joined SHERIDAN on his march to Fort Cobb. The General is to eat his Christmas dinner at Camp Supply. Major INMAN is ordered to be there with the last train of supplies for Sheridan's expedition. He left Fort Dodge on the 17th inst. with a supply train of five hundred wagons. They were loaded with commissary stores and one million pounds of forage. This supply is supposed to last until the Indian war is brought to a close.

It is reported that the Indians drove off all the stock belonging to Gen. PENROSE's command. He was to have made a junction with SHERIDAN on the Canadian River, but this loss will cause some delay, as he will have to have a new supply of stock. His men were frozen very badly. The prisoners arrived at Fort Dodge on the 10th inst., that were taken in the recent fight on Wachita River. There were fifty-three in all; including women and children. They were in good spirits, and were treated as well as the officers of the post. Major INMAN, the kind Quartermaster, brought them from Camp Supply. On the trip up it was very cold, and he issued blankets to keep them warm, and had a horse killed and also a large dog, for them to eat, which they thought very nice.

Brevet Brig.-Gen. F. STEIN, of St. Louis, passed down Monday evening, from Fort Riley, where he has been amusing himself killing prairie chickens and quail. His hunt lasted fifteen days. He will make a short visit to Kansas City in about two weeks, *en route* to Fort Leavenworth.

A Romantic Story from Cleveland—Two Persons Married at Their First Meeting.

From the Cleveland Herald, Dec. 24.

ALBERT H. WINTERS, a resident of Cincinnati, Ohio, enlisted in one of the Ohio regiments early in the beginning of the war, and while sick in a hospital at Louisville, Ky., received from an agent of the Sanitary Commission a pair of stockings, one of which contained a slip of paper giving the maker's name and address, and requesting the one into whose possession the stockings should come to enter into a correspondence with her. WINTERS, as he grew better, found time hanging heavily on his hands, and for, as he expressed it, mere fun, wrote to the young lady. In due course of time he received a letter from her couched in lady-like and pleasing terms, and young WINTERS resolved on continuing the correspondence. Letter after letter was received and sent, and finally photographs were exchanged. This led to a deeper resolve on WINTERS' part, and just about the time the war closed he sent on a formal proposal of marriage, which was as formally accepted. The time for the ceremony was set, but it appears that in this as well as in many other cases, the course of true love was not destined to run smoothly. Some envious person learning of the correspondence and its result, wrote the lady that WINTERS was anything but the model young man that she supposed him to be. In short, that he was already married and the father of a happy and interesting family, of three children. This rather staggered the lady, and she wrote WINTERS about it. He, it appears, was too proud to deny anything, replying that if she loved him as she said she did, she must trust to his honor and honesty, which she agreed to do for a time at least, or until she could become better satisfied upon the point. In the meantime the appointed day for the wedding had passed, and another, remote a year, was fixed upon. For some cause when the time was up an extension was asked by the lady and agreed to by WINTERS. Her letters suddenly began to grow less frequent and decidedly less affectionate, and the perplexed lover decided upon going to her home to see what was the matter. On his way to the depot the carriage he was in met with an accident. WINTERS was thrown out and sustained a compound fracture of the right leg. This, of course, prevented him from carrying out his plan for several months, and when he got able to be about had about made up his mind, as he had received no word from his affianced during his sickness, that he would seek elsewhere for a wife. Immersed in business he partially banished her memory from his heart, but, it seems, Fate had ordained that their paths, though diverging for a time, should run together again, and that they should unite their fortunes.

On Monday WINTERS had occasion to visit Cleveland on business, and while talking to a friend at the Union depot, he recognized the original of the almost-forgotten picture upon which he used to dote with so much fondness and expectation pass in from the carriage-way to the ladies' sitting-room. Taking a sudden resolution to at least clear up the mystery of her continued coldness, he sought her in the room. Mutual explanations followed, and in order to prevent a similar misunderstanding, it was agreed to take advantage of the opportunity presented, and unite their fortunes. An officer authorized to perform marriage ceremonies, we believe a Methodist clergyman, but whose name we could not learn, was sought out, and in less than half a hour from the time of the first meeting, WINTERS was the happy husband of a beautiful woman. Her maiden name is withheld at her particular request, preferred for reasons best known to herself. WINTERS found it convenient to postpone his business and accompany his new made wife to the residence of her father, a short way down the Lake Shore Road. He is of the opinion that he will never regret the result of his correspondence and his wife is of the same opinion. We hope so.

CURRENT LITERATURE.

HOLYDAYS.

Oh, the sweet perfume of the Spring-time,
The gorse and fields of cloth of gold,
The far-off kine, the wandering bee,
Sabbath on Sabbath wide unrolled.

Ay, fainter, fainter through my brain
The clink and clank of rod and wheel,
As I sink down 'mid primrose copses,
An Eden's echoes round me steal.

In the great game of life a wrestler,
I crave a little breathing time;
Rest, aching brain; rest, toil-worn fingers,
And trifle with an idle rhyme.

At Nature's feet. Ah! let us nestle
Sweet wife and children, and forget
Our wilderness of smoky housetops—
Life owes her martyrs such a debt.

In after years, when we grow sombre
My darlings, or when some are dead,
Love's mem'ry will not quite let wither
These holydays so brightly sped.

MY WORST CHRISTMAS EVE.

From Temple Bar for December.

I had been five years in the counting-house of Messrs. Spain & Terrott, in Mincing-lane.

My mother had wished me to try for a Government clerkship; but I had seen enough of genteel poverty during my father's lifetime, to become quite sure the same sort of thing would not do for me, and I told her so the very day after I came home from school.

This was six months after my father's death; and knowing how she had screwed and pinched to keep me at Rugby, I was eager to be off her hands, and longing for the time when I could help to make her position an easier one.

My only chum at school had been young Spain. He was going into his father's office, he said.

"You are lucky fellow to have an office to go into," said I.

"Lucky! Why, my dear fellow, I can't see any particular luck in settling down in that dingy old East End for life. You are the lucky fellow, I think. Government clerks are free at 4 o'clock, and take their ease in the parks every day if they choose. I wish my father had your mother's notions."

"Now, just look here, Frank," I said. "You know the one life, and you don't know the other. Taking all things into consideration, you are the most luxurious, spendthrift sort of fellow I ever met with. About as fit to economize on ninety pounds a year, and that's all Government gives at first starting, as the Prince of Wales is. Why, I consider you have first-rate prospects."

"Oh! I dare say. You would like 'em yourself, wouldn't you, now?" said Frank, savagely.

"Like them! I can scarcely tell you what I would give—not to be in your shoes, of course—but to get a desk in your office at all."

Frank smiled and whistled. He was a very good sort of fellow, although very unfit for business. Before he had been at home a week, I was asked to dine and sleep at his father's grand house at Tottenham, and in another fortnight I was settled for life in the office in Mincing-lane.

My dear mother did not like it at first. I am not sure that even the comforts and pleasures I was soon able to indulge her in ever reconciled her to what she called, in her pretty, quiet way, "a decided loss of caste;" but she never loved me any less, I am sure, for having carved out my own path in life; and, after all, true love heals all differences of opinion. I must just mention one other circumstance, and then I will go back to the event on which my story hangs. No need to enter its date in my diary; if I forgot everything else in the world, I could never get the 24th of December, 1842, out of my head.

The other circumstance is a woman. I beg my darling Maggie's pardon, and put "young lady" down instead, although to me, who am only a plain man of business, woman is about the most beautiful word we have in the language. At Mr. Spain's I saw Frank's three sisters; but I had eyes only for one of them—the youngest—Maggie. She was but sixteen, and was still in the school-room; but she breakfasted with us, and took me round the garden afterward. Ah, Maggie, I have still got the rose you gave me for my button-hole that morning.

Well, there were a good many ups and downs in our wooing. At one time Mr. Spain asked me to discontinue my visits—in plain English, forbade me the house; but his wife stood my friend through all, and Maggie and I would have been regularly engaged a year when Christmas Eve came round again.

I believe Frank's going into the army settled the matter. He could not take to counting-house ways at all, and as Mr. Spain had no other son, I suppose he thought I might as well succeed him as any one else. Mr. Terrott had died long ago, although the fiction of his name remained.

On the 22d of December, as bitter a night as I ever remember, I found myself at the entrance of a small town called Trevellick, on the borders of Cornwall and Devonshire. I had been traveling rapidly from town to town for several days, collecting receipts for the firm. This was to be my last halt before proceeding to Exeter to pay them into the bank there.

I have always a nervous feeling of dislike to the charge of other folks' money. The pocket-book of notes, with its steel chain and padlock, seemed to weigh like lead in the breast-pocket of my coat. At Ivesack, the last town I had stopped at, my receipts had been so large that I had set forth again on my journey with a strong feeling of relief that next day would find me paying all into the bank at Exeter. Hitherto I had almost always been fortunate enough to find a coach of some kind plying between the numerous small towns I had visited; but when I asked at Ivesack which would be my best way of reaching Trevellick, I was told that there certainly was a coach, but it only went once a week, and it had gone the day before; and then my informant, the landlord of the Peacock at Ivesack, put his head on one side and looked at me dubiously. It was plain he wondered what I could be wanting at Trevellick.

"This is very tiresome," I said. "My business is urgent." It was not quite true. I mean about the business, for the urgency was strictly personal, divided between the wish to get rid of the responsible bank-notes and the longing to spend Christmas with my darling Maggie.

"I shouldn't have guessed Trevellick much of a business place now." He laid a disagreeable stress on the word "business," and I thought to myself, I shall not get any orders there, I suppose.

However, I soon found there was a chaise to be had in Ivesack—a tumble-down, rickety vehicle, with a deaf driver, who had lost his front teeth. I asked him a few questions about Trevellick, but I found his answers too unintelligible to persevere in my inquiries, and the road soon became such a slough of despond that every moment we risked an upset.

At the entrance of what looked to me a miserable village, my driver halted.

"Can't go no further wi' ye," he grumbled, and then came something about "two mile on."

"Why can't you put up here to-night instead of going on?" I asked.

He was a stolid, heavy-eyed man; but he gave me such a significant grin that I started.

"No, thankee, Sir. I never puts up in Trevellick. Now, then, by your leave. Thankee, Sir."

Another minute and he was driving along the road which crossed that we had been following, and I found myself alone in the mud.

"Never put up in Trevellick! What on earth does the fellow mean? Surely there must be some kind of an inn here?

I strode on through the mud, scarcely able to look about me, in search of shelter, for the houses were built in groups, two and three together, and through the gaps between them the keen east wind came down with a searching bitterness that made me inclined to bury my chin in the collar of my great coat. What a long straggling street! there seemed no end of it; but all at once the houses grew higher on either side, streets branched out from the road I was following, and I became aware that Trevellick was a much larger place than I had dreamed of. It looked indescribably black and gloomy; but this might be only the darkness. There was not a soul to be seen, and scarcely a shop. I knew that I was in a mining district, and Trevellick was possibly only a large assemblage of miners' houses, with perhaps one or two provision stores in it. However, there must be a drinking-place somewhere, and there I should get a lodging.

I came upon it at last.

As I approached the corner of the third street on the right hand side, a faint sound of voices was audible. I stopped and listened. Yes, the sounds could not be mistaken for anything but the chorus of a noisy drinking song. I turned down the street—it was a queer, old-fashioned place; some of the houses nodded forward their pointed roofs at each other as if echoing the song:

"When you die of age, my dear,
I must sigh and quake for fear."

The singing came from the lower story of a house crowned by five of these rickety gables; from the centre one projected a massive bar, below which a sign-board creaked dismally on its rusty hinges.

There were no lamps anywhere, so that I could not make out the sign; afterwards I found it was the Fox.

The door was shut, but it opened when I turned the handle. Just inside on the right was a dirty-looking bar; a red-haired girl stood rinsing tumblers by the light of a tallow candle; she looked up sharply as I came in.

Something in her look repelled me; had I known the name of the house I might have thought her face in keeping with the picture on the sign-board. Underneath the masses of frizzy red hair which plainly resisted all attempts at keeping smooth on each side of her narrow, freckled forehead, shone out the most singularly red-brown eyes I ever saw—eyes that you could scarcely turn your own away from, so intensely penetrating was their expression.

"Your pleasure, Sir?" she said, before I had recovered the sort of start her eyes had given me.

Her voice was better than her looks.

"Can I have a bed here?"

She stared at me in such an uncomfortable manner that, if it had not been for the tumbler in her hand and the dirty cloth under her arm with which she had been wiping it, I should have thought that I had intruded into a private madhouse instead of an inn.

"Here, stay a moment, while I speak to father."

She moved past me as quietly as if the floor had been carpeted, with none of the roughness that her bony figure and large hands would have led one to expect. Somehow this gliding movement of hers raised my spirits; it seemed a token of civilized life; and she had looked so wild and savage at me, that I had begun to form dismal ideas concerning my lodging.

There was no light in the passage in which I was standing, though a little further on the right a ruddy gleam came from what was plainly the door of the room where the guests were drinking; the chorus had died away, but a dull murmur of voices sounded every now and then. I went further up the passage, drawn on, I suppose, by this red streak, which told both of light and warmth, and all at once I became aware that I was not alone in that cold darkness. A low whispering was going on very near me, apparently in a room on the left, the door of which must have been open.

I did not want to be listener, and I moved away. As I did so, I heard this:

"A Londoner?—ay, ay! Any portmanteau or luggage?"

"I saw a bag—not very large, though."

"Keep it out of sight," was the answer, and then came dead silence.

I do not know how people generally feel in such circumstances. In melodramas and romances I think the hero, with amazing presence of mind, rushes from the den of thieves in which he has fallen, and, by some superhuman good fortune, finds either a friend or a policeman round the corner of the next street; but I am a very plain, prosaic mortal, and I confess that thought passes slowly through my brain, unless it comes in the shape of figures; I can calculate them fast enough.

Before I had at all turned this conversation over in my mind, I had reached the bar again, and in another instant the red-eyed girl came into it from a little back-door.

"Will you please walk in the parlor, Sir, there's a fire there? and what will you please to order for supper?"

Supper!—she was not an appetizing questioner. I don't think I could eat cold meat if that girl had handled it, and yet the mention of food had brought a keen sense of hunger. "I'll have a couple of eggs," I said, "and some hot brandy and water."

She offered to take my bag, but I declined, and kept hold of it.

Almost before I knew it she had slipped past me and opened the door with the streak of red light seen through it.

I had known outside that the room was a wide one, from the extent of low lattice window spreading across the front of the lower story, but I was not prepared for its immense length; it had plainly been, at one time, divided into two or three chambers, two square wooden supports showing where each of the partition-walls had been removed. Many black beams stretched from one side wall to the other, the ceiling between being so discolored by age and smoke that there was little difference of tint between it and the beams.

At the end nearest the window were a few rough tables and benches, and on two of these, tallow candles, set in tall brass tubes, were flaring. The company, seemingly, had found the firelight the pleasantest, for both tables were deserted. A group of half a dozen men sat round the fire smoking, a jug of beer and some tin and pewter pots on a bench placed near.

The lower half of the room looked bare and gloomy, shrouded in a darkness that even the blazing firelight could not penetrate. I felt chilly, and instinctively I turned toward the drinking party.

They must have heard me come in, but not a man among them moved to offer me a place near the fire.

But I never was troubled with shyness, so I just set the beer jug on the ground, and seated myself in front of the blaze.

There was a low growl of discontent from one of the men, and then they all raised their eyes and looked at me with the same kind of slow, steady stare a bull gives when you suddenly come face to face with him in a field.

A nice sort of company, truly. Six about as evil, brutal-looking ruffians as could be met with.

I felt my arm touched lightly.

It was my red-haired Hebe.

"I'll lay supper for you here, Sir," she pointed to the table, "and when you've warmed yourself, perhaps you'll sit here; it will be more handy than the settle."

I noticed that, though she spoke with a strong provincial accent, she had none of the unintelligible dialect I had been hearing so much of lately.

As soon as she was gone, one of the men muttered something that sounded to me like Welsh; another shrugged his shoulders; but an elder man who sat opposite shook his head warningly, and spoke a few rapid words, which sounded to me like persuasion against some proposal made by the first speaker.

I was too benumbed by my cold drive through the bitter wind to care to ask for my room before supper, or else I should have been glad to leave this evil-looking crew. I knew I could not sit leisurely and endure insolence, and yet, with all that responsibility lying heavy in my breast pocket, I dared not risk any altercation with men who looked like thieves and murderers. Something in the way the girl had told me where she should place my supper had given me a hint of silence, and every moment's observation had made me resolved to hold my peace. It was evident they were all intoxicated, and when the girl brought in my tray they asked for more liquor.

"No!" she spoke civilly, but in such a sharp, incisive voice that there was no chance of mistaking her meaning; "not to-night, gentlemen. Father 'll be here in a twinkling, and he'll not allow fresh liquor to be drawn at this time of night."

One of the men growled something I could not understand, and pointed to my steaming glass.

"That's quite another matter," she said; "but now, John Trimbath, you go home quiet; we're wanting to shut up soon."

Instead of looking angry, John Trimbath grinned. I could not see his eyes, as he sat with his face turned away from me.

"Quite another matter, eh?" he spoke plainly enough, as he mimicked her voice.

She turned away and went quickly to the door.

"Father, come," she called out, "here's Mr. Trimbath wants you to show him out; he's waiting."

The father must have been standing close by, for he came in almost as she spoke; the great hairy ruffian, Trimbath, sat open-mouthed, but he had no time to recover from his surprise.

"At your service, John," the landlord said, with what seemed to me an authoritative tone, and he took the other man by the arm and led him out.

The rest fell into a dead silence, and finally one after another slunk away without any attempt to intrude on my privacy.

When I had finished my supper, I went back to the fire. It had got low, but when I knocked the logs about there was still some blaze left in them. Either the contrast and the cold of my journey, or the numbness consequent on the latter, or the potency of the brandy and water, had made me feel very sleepy. Very sleepy, and at the same time wholly unwilling to go to bed. In this half-waking, half-dozing state I made up my mind that I might as well stay where I was, and pass the night beside the fire.

But I was not to have the liberty of choice.

I must have dozed quite off; it seemed to me I was falling out of bed. I struggled, opened my eyes wide, and saw the red-eyed girl at my elbow.

I had a consciousness of appearing ridiculous, but her face was perfectly unmoved.

"If you please, Sir. I have to put out the lights now. Shall I show you your room?"

I had kept my bag and my hat beside me. I stooped for them, and followed my conductor.

If she had not gone on in front with the light, I must have broken my neck up the old staircase, wide enough and shallow enough, but as uneven as a country road, and with great holes here and there, which caught the heel of my boot and held it firmly.

It must have been a very large house. I went down one long gallery, then we turned a sharp angle, and went on almost groping, for my red-eyed friend's candle was only tallow, and scarcely gave any light at all.

We stopped at last before a low door, when the girl opened it, set her candle down on the dressing-table, and then close it noiselessly behind her.

The candle-light shone like a spark in the great sea of blackness. I raised it, and held it up above my head, so as to get an idea of my sleeping place. It was more guant, more barn-like even than the room down stairs.

The walls looked as black as ink, the floor was bare; at one end of the vast cheerless place was a bed that would have held six comfortably; it seemed to have elaborate wooden pillars and a carved head-piece, but nothing in the way of drapery; however, the bedding, when I came to close inspection, was clean; there was not even a chest of drawers. A common deal washstand, a rickety table, a rickety table, a small looking-glass, and six rush-bottomed chairs, made up the furniture of a room at least thirty feet square. I found the gloom oppressive. It was a journey from the washstand to the dressing-table, and another from the dressing-table to the bed.

It might have been supposed that the change to a colder temperature would have roused me, but I grew more and more drowsy.

Don't fancy for a moment that my brandy and water had been medicated, after the fashion of the sleeping potions of heroes, who betake themselves to lonely roadside inns: it was not that kind of sleepiness; it was the lethargy of fatigue and of a long journey.

I examined my door, and found to my dismay that there was no key in the lock, no bolt of any kind.

"Well," I thought, "this is pleasant—and, by-the-by, I never once caught sight of my landlord's face. It wasn't the behavior of an honest man to shirk speaking to me and to turn me over to that girl."

I found my hand stealing up unconsciously to the pocket-book. It was plain I must sleep with my door unlocked. I put the table against it, just to prevent my being taken unawares; but I could not make up my mind to sleep with all that money under my pillow. I was more than half asleep, and yet this idea grew so strong that it seemed impossible to go to bed till I had disposed of my bank-notes. The cash I put under my pillow, but I could find no place for the pocket-pook; it seemed to me I must sit up all night. Here I nodded heavily, and nearly sent my hair into the flame of the candle. Sit up all night! I had sense enough left to know that I could not keep awake ten minutes longer!

I held up my taper in a sort of desperation, and looked around the room; there might be a press or a cupboard in one of those dark shadowy corners. The light only showed me the corners at my end of the room, and I walked slowly round, holding up my taper, and throwing its full light upon the dark wall. It was paneled oak from ceiling to floor, and when I reached the top of the room against which the bed was placed, I saw that some of these panels were carved with shields and devices. I had now examined all the four corners of the room, and found myself once more in front of the windows just facing the door.

I had placed my bag here and stooped down to get my slippers. As I stooped there, I saw the door move very slowly; I put my candle down, and gently drew my pistol-case out of the bag. The door was still again, so I cocked my pistols, and stood waiting, not for long; the door moved again, this time violently, and the rickety table nearly fell forward on the floor; but the gasping struggling sound that came in through the opening, told me that this intruder was only a violent blast of wind, which, having got loose in these long galleries, was trying to find its way into the rooms and go out by the rattling casements.

But this shock had done me good; I looked longingly at my bed, and almost resolved that the precious pocket-book would be safe under my pillow. Yes, I would put it there along with the little bag of cash. I went up to the bed, the candle in hand; I had grown more wakeful; and as the light fell on the carved woodwork, I leant down and examined it. Some of the work was so relieved that it seemed to me it could hardly be carved out of the panel itself; almost unconsciously I fingered it; as I did so the ornament glided from my fingers, and in its place was a small dark opening. I have often described the feeling that then took possession of me, but I fail in making people realize it. It seemed to me that this place of safety had been sent in answer to my anxiety, and, without a moment's doubt or hesitation, I took the pocket-book from my coat, and placed it in the shallow recess; then I remembered a smaller book, and put that under the larger one, and drew the panel close.

It was safe, and I drew a deep breath of relief; and then my drowsiness, as if in revenge for the delay, grew so overpowering that I hardly know how I got into bed. I have a dim remembrance of going up to the windows and finding that they had no fastenings; but I do not remember anything after that.

I cannot say how long I slept. Suddenly I found myself sitting up in bed, my eyes wide open. The room was in utter darkness, but it felt yet more chillingly cold, and I knew, without any power of accounting for my knowledge, that there was something, or some person, near me. For a moment I seemed paralyzed, but only for a moment; the next, I felt for the pistol I had put under my pillow, and cocked it.

"Who's there?" I said.

There was no answer, nor any sound in the room, but I fancied I heard a movement not far off; I felt for my candle and lighted it, and then I got up and took a deliberate survey of my bedchamber. Some one had entered it; I felt sure of that. I had placed my bag at the foot of the bed and now it lay just below one of the windows, and this window was open. I looked out, but all was dark and quiet, and I could discover no ladder or means of access that could be ascertained by the touch. I did not feel alarmed; the pocket-book was safe, and I had the pistols. I remembered I had a pencil in my coat; I split this in two, and wedged both the windows so as to render it difficult for the intruder to make another noiseless entrance, and then nature prevailed, and I went shivering back to bed, and was asleep again in a few moments.

When I next awakened, the room was full of bright sunshine. I had been dreaming of Maggie, and it took me a minute or so to recall the place in which I found myself. Almost before I had finished dressing I went up to my friendly panel.

"I don't mean to spend an unnecessary hour in Trevellick," thought I; "I will just have a hasty breakfast, and be off to Exeter."

I looked at the panel—but which was it? I saw now, in the daylight, that this carved work, instead of being divided into portions, formed a continued band of ornament along the end and half-way down the two sides of the room, and that the work was one monotonous scroll, relieved here and there by shields and roses. I tried to push aside the ornament at the place where I thought I had placed the books, but it would not move. Look as closely as I would, rack my memory as intensely as such an anxiety as mine alone could rack it, I found that I had lost all distinct vision of the precise spot where the spring had yielded to my finger.

But I was soon laughing at my momentary fright.

"Of course I can feel along all the ornament, then I must hit on the right place."

So I finished dressing myself, packed up my bag, and was whistling cheerfully by the time I recommenced my search.

But I did not whistle long.

I felt every bit of the ornament—I even examined that part of it which was continued on the sides of my bedchamber—in vain; all was firm and solid, and when I tapped it in hopes of discovering by the sound where my treasure was stored, I was equally baffled.

I stood open-mouthed, gazing at the nefarious piece of ornament which had juggled me into this misfortune, and I began to fancy it had all been a dream, and that I should find the pocket-book under my pillow.

No, it was not there. I stepped back and looked round me. It now struck me that I had been so sleepy over-night that I might have left it in my coat.

But it was not there, and I grew seriously uneasy.

What could I do? Till now I had forgotten my midnight visitor, but the recollection only increased my disturbance.

Had my pocket-book been taken from my coat while I slept? I went to the window I had found open. It looked down into a damp courtyard, and just below it was a projecting bit of roof which could easily be reached. I felt more than ever positive that some one had entered my room.

"If I question the landlord," I thought, "it will only serve to show him that I really am worth robbing. I believe this is a robbers' den, but, after all, I don't think I could have invented that idea of the sliding panel; if I keep quiet I shall remember something special about the place where I touched the spring."

I said this after the fashion of Mark Tapley, but you need not imagine that I felt in any way "jolly" as I went down the hilly old staircase.

I found the red-haired damsel in the passage, and ordered my breakfast.

"I want to see your father."

"Father's out, Sir."

I felt sure she was not speaking the truth.

"I must see him." I spoke very sternly. "Some one got into my bedroom last night by the window."

The girl showed no sign of surprise or annoyance, only her lips closed more firmly than ever, and her eyes seemed to be looking at each other rather than at me.

"I suppose you had a bad dream, Sir," she said presently. "Nobody could have got in at your window." And I heard her grumble to herself as she walked away.

I had my breakfast—also I had my dinner. Moreove, night came on again, and though I had spent the day wandering up and down the staircase, perpetually fingering the ornaments lest my secret deposit might be suspected and discovered in my absence if I left the house, I had not regained any distinct memory of the way in which I had found out the hidden spring.

"Well," I said, "I must find it out, if I have to stay here seven years."

I was by myself, in this very dreary room, and just then the girl came and asked me to sit in a small room behind the bar.

"I have put lights there, Sir; I thought, maybe, you'd find it snugger."

I guessed that she wanted to avoid the chance of a quarrel between me and John Trimbath, who doubtless was a regular evening guest. I felt strongly inclined to stand my ground, and tax Mr. Trimbath boldly with the visit I had received last night; but my object was to avoid observation as much as possible during my stay at Trevellick; and, besides, the desperate nature of my perplexity dwarfed all other annoyances into mere trifles. The gaunt discomfort of the house, the unkempt, disheveled appearance of the red-haired girl—I had only seen a dirty, shriveled old woman besides, even more repulsive in appearance than the young one—the anticipation of another night intrusion—all these things, which at another time would have given food for mental disturbance, seemed scarcely to occupy a moment's thought. I could see nothing but the shields and roses on the carved band of woodwork upstairs.

Still, when I heard voices in the bar, I determined to try and see my landlord. I guessed that a side door, behind the sofa on which I sat, led into the bar. I got up and opened the door as quietly and noiselessly as I could

But there was only my red-eyed friend, wiping glasses with a dirtier cloth than ever.

"I must see your father; I shall not go to bed till I have seen him."

The girl looked up at me with a cold, sneering sort of gaze.

"Well then, Sir, you won't go to bed to-night. Father have gone away a week or so; he's oft' away.. There'll be no disturbance in your room to-night, I'll lay."

I don't know if she meant it, but her look said plainly that she considered me a coward. However, whether she had spoken the truth or not, it was plain that the landlord of the Fox intended to remain invisible.

I did not go up to my room until the quiet told me that the evening guests had departed, and then I went up the old staircase almost beside myself. What could I do? Go to Mr. Spain—I, a matter-of-fact, plain man of business—with this legend of a sliding panel—more like one of the tales out of the Arabian Nights than of any fact likely to happen in the nineteenth century? And, after all, if I do make up my mind to do this, and Mr. Spain believes me, and employs workmen to remove the woodwork—suppose that it was a dream, that the pocketbook was in my coat pocket, and that the thief who got into my room last night stole it?"

I was just fit to shoot myself by the time I reached my bedroom. I had taken the numbers of all the notes I had received in a smaller pocket-book; but if I had deposited the one book in the closed recess, I knew the other was there also.

I closed the door, and it grated on some obstacle on the floor. I looked, and saw fresh sawdust. A new strong bolt had been put there since my last journey upstairs. I went to the windows—they too had secure fastenings.

"It is plain that my room was attempted last night," I said, and my heart grew heavier. Had my landlord decamped with his plunder, and had he caused these fastenings to be put to divert my suspicions?

I passed a troubled, fevered night. It seemed to me, when I rose up next morning, worn and unrefreshed, that I was a ruined man. My character in the city would be forever blemished by such a piece of unjustifiable carelessness, even if I could get any one to call it by so lenient a name; and Maggie—well, it was just possible that Maggie and I were forever separated.

I don't know how I got through that day. It seems to me, looking back to it from this distance of time—six and-twenty-years—to have been a dull stupor of misery. On the first day my brain had been full of wild impracticable schemes; but to-day I was more collected, more real; and I knew that there was nothing for me but to go up to London and tell my story to my employer. Lately I had grown to think of Mr. Spain as my father-in-law; but now I could only picture him as the cold, reserved, stiff-collared man of business I had seen on my first visit to Mincing-lane. Till to-day hope had been so strong that I had let my mind dwell more on recovery than on the certainty of loss; now it seemed to me that, although I had lost the numbers of the notes, the payers of them would surely have some clue, and I debated whether I would not retrace my steps through Devonshire before I returned to London.

I had been told there was a post-chaise in Trevellick, but that I could not have it till afternoon.

I had just finished my dinner, and was listening eagerly for the sound of wheels. I had resolved to go to Exeter, paying the money I had in cash into the bank there, and to seek some advice from the person to whom I had received a letter of introduction.

The door of the room opened, and in came, not my red-haired attendant, but the old shriveled-faced woman I had only caught a glimpse of occasionally. She was cleaner than I had fancied, and not so evil-looking. There was an air about her that denoted more prosperous days than those in which her lot was now cast.

"'Ee can't go to Exeter, Sir." She spoke unlike a Devonshire woman, I thought. "The chaise has a wheel broke, and may be it won't be fitted till dark, and e'll not get old *Robbie* to stir along the road atwixt this and Exeter afore mornin'."

"But I must go, even if I drive myself."

The old woman put her arms akimbo and looked at me.

"Do 'ee think, Sir, 'ee can take a strange road i' th' dark? Bide here till mornin' light; 'ee'll save time, too."

"But I can get a horse. I tell you I must go."

"Bless yer heart," she said softly, "horses beant lent to strangers in Trevellick; and I don't reckon 'ee cares to buy 'un out and out."

I made no answer. In my anger I turned away to the windows—everything was in a league to destroy me.

Presently I looked round, and the old woman was standing beside me.

"If the Squoire had been at whcam," she said, "may be he might ha' speeded ye."

"The Squire," I said, mechanically, for I hardly took in her words.

"Ees—Squire Vyvyan. Did 'ee never hear tell 'o the Vyvyans o' Trevellick? This were a grand house one time afore the mines, bad luck to them! and the dirty squad o' houses they builds and builds, till Trevellick beant no more like a gentleman's dwelling-place than Exeter itself."

"A gentleman's dwelling-place," I said, dreamily; "why, this is an inn."

The old creature's eyes lit up with anger. "And if a gentleman be fallen on evil days and chooses to entertain travelers here and there one, what call have you, Sir, to say about it? You 'as been cared for like a prince, as Miss Lichetts has waited on herself; 'as had the best sleeping-room in the house. The measter's own father would rise and walk if he had knowed the evil days that had come to the Vyvyans."

A sudden thought struck me in the midst of my surprise.

"Why does Mr. Vyvyan avoid me?"

The woman looked at me with the sort of disdain the feminine mind is apt to show for a man's obtuseness.

"Do'ee think, Sir, when a gentleman loses lands as the old Squoire did, the young'un and lordship just cares to be put in mind of what has been? Squoire Vyvyan be a true gentleman, he be, like his ancestors afore him, as has lived and died here time out of mind—tho' he mayn't ha' had schooling.

She walked slowly away at these words, and left me thinking.

Not about the truth of her story; it seemed to me quite likely that spendthrift extravagance, ruinous mining speculations, possibly, had reduced an ancient family to beggary, and that the property had fallen a prey to those who had worked the mines more successfully than the Vyvyans had been able to do. Now what kept me thinking was a sudden ray of light that had shown into my dark perplexity. If this had been an old manor-house, then the staircase, the carved woodwork, the very size of the house, corroborated the old woman's assertion, and the sliding panel had not been a dream.

I was thankful to the broken wheel of the post-chaise; but for that I should by this time be on my way to Exeter.

There is no feeling that takes such quick possession of us as hope—no feeling that revives us mentally and bodily with such sudden, stimulating vigor. The ray of light broadened so fast that it dazed me, and I felt for a moment giddy with the flood of new ideas that came.

This is what they finally resolved themselves into:

I would sit in the general room, taking the risk of a quarrel with John Trimbath; I would inhale thes trong, coarse tobacco smoke, and I would drink just such a tumbler of hot brandy-and-water as I drank on the first evening of my arrival, and attain, if I could, to the same sort of drowsiness.

In the midst of this excitement I remembered my long, cold journey. Next moment I had got my hat, and was walking as fast as legs would take me down the main street, out into the uneven, rugged road, and away over a bare, bleak down that bordered it. I walked as if Fate with relentless shears was pursuing me. I wanted to tire myself utterly and I succeeded.

It was quite dark when I came in; the evening guests were already sending their voices out into the street in which the Fox was situated. I walked straight into the long, gaunt room and took my place at the table nearest the fire.

John Trimbath was not in the company; there were only four visitors, and they paid no heed to me after the first long stare. When Miss Lichetts appeared, I ordered eggs and brandy and water. I was careful to place myself exactly in the same attitude as on the night of my arrival at Trevellick, and though I sat up long after my noisy companions had departed, I could not reach that state of drowsiness which had then oppressed me.

Still I thought I would make the experiment I had planned in the midst of my newly-kindled hopes, and I went straight up to that part of the ornament nearest my bed. I felt along it carefully; pressed every bit of the scroll-work with my finger, and although I fancied that a rose had been carved near the object of my search, still I manipulated the shield, which came next to it, quite as diligently.

It was useless. I had conceived this idea from an indistinct remembrance of something similar in a book I had read in childhood, and I smiled bitterly at own folly.

"For me, too! a man who despises book ideas altogether! Why, I am always preaching that real life is the only study worthy of a reasonable being.

I got into bed, and my last thoughts were that surely my brain must be softening. First, I had lost this large sum of money in a way which I could not explain, and, secondly, I had yielded to an impulse as unaccountable as the previous action—an impulse which had kept me lingering at Trevellick on this miserable Christmas Eve.

Was this a dream, or was it reality?

I passed my hand over my face, felt the bedclothes—the bag of money under my pillow—the very headposts of the bed.

I had roused suddenly; but not with any feeling of alarm.

I had dreamed of magic. I had been dancing with her in the very room in which I slept, a strange, stiff, old-fashioned dance; it had seemed to me that she was dressed like an old picture of my grandmother in blue brocade and powdered hair, and that I wore a stiff court-suit and a sword. After the dance I took her hand and led her to a seat, but she withdrew it, and walked alone to a large chair placed just where my bed now stood. I had seen the room blazing with wax-lights, full of gaily-dressed couples, and animated by the buzz of gentle voices; but in the midst of all I had still seen my room as it at present existed, gloomy and bare, with the great square bed standing at the upper end. I seemed to follow Maggie; instead of seating herself, she leaned over the chair, and touched the ornament on the wall. At least, I thought she touched it. She read my thought, and shook her head, still keeping her finger where she had placed it. I bent over her to see more clearly, and I awoke. Yes, I was awake, and I groped for my candle, and lighted it with surprising quickness. I feared lest the revelation so suddenly vouchsafed should fade away with the dream that had brought it, for with my waking had come the remembrance that it was beneath the rose leaves that I had touched the spring just when I had been struck by their wonderful relief from the wall itself. No thought of failure checked me, not even the recollection that I had more than once, as I fancied, felt along every portion of the woodwork, and now either by some instinct of memory or will, I find it difficult to shape the alternative in words. When I reached the woodwork my riddle was solved. My fingers slipped beneath the rose, to which my dream guided me, and sought not the scrolly work beneath it, but the inner surface of one of its carved petals, and again I felt the carving glide away from under my fingers, and there lay my two pocket-books safe and sound!

I could never tell why I pitched on that identical rose; but I can tell you that long before he was willing to start, I had roused old Robbie from his slumbers, and the first thing I did when I got to Exeter was to go to the cathedral, and offer a hearty thanksgiving for my deliverance from the trouble of that Christmas Eve.

Next morning the banks were closed; but as soon as I was free from my precious deposit, I hurried off to London, never pausing till I found myself at Tottenham beside my darling Maggie. Less than a month afterward we were married.

A TRAVELER'S TALE.—DREIKOPP, in the course of his researches, discovered in some old book of travels in Sumatra, long before the time of Sir STAMFORD RAFFLES, a serious custom obtaining among a cannibal tribe there. The tribe in question never let a man live beyond seventy-two without eating him. The way they do it is this: the relatives of the old gentleman invite a large dinner party, chiefly of relations, for a certain day and hour, generally selecting some central spot in a spice-wood forest—a pleasant, shady, cozy spot, such as we English people would choose for a pic nic. They all muster at the appointed time, every man carrying a carved war club and a bag full of pepper, salt and lemons. They then, after the usual bows, greetings and introductions, give the old gentlemen (who, dressed lightly for the purpose, treats the whole matter as a peculiar mark of respect, thanks everyone all round, and drinks their health in palm toddy) a fair start, and run him up and down till he is rather warm and tolerably tender. In half an hour or so (even if the old gentleman has practiced as an attorney) he is sure to be "treed" by the younger and more hungry men. A whoop is then given, and the whole party collect, and sit round the place in a ring—every man with his leaf of salt, pepper, and lemon by his side, his knife and fork in his hand, and the leaf of a tallypot palm for a tablecloth spread over his knees. Everyone then shouts at the same moment, "Dinner time is come. Good night, Mr. ——." The chief mourner runs up the tree, shakes hands with the old party, and drops him down. He is instantly clubbed and eaten, with "sauce piquante," or "sauce à la bonne femme." Such is the remarkable custom of this very interesting people.—*Dickens' "All the Year Round."*

HUNGRY HERRINGS.—When herrings are in what may be called the hungry stage, that is, when the milt or roe is at its smallest, they eat everything in the shape of food they can obtain. As a proof of this, and it will interest our readers to know the fact, the herring will rise to a fly. This is a fact; we have seen them taken by means of a rod and an artificial fly. The late Mr. MITCHELL narrates an experiment of fly fishing for herrings, when a few hundreds were taken in that way for the early German market, which is a very remunerative one. The herring has also been taken by means of clear hooks, without bait of any kind, and as many as 3,000 fish have been brought ashore in this way, in an hour or two, by one or two boatmen, who tried to anticipate the regular fishing season. It is thought by some who have studied the natural history of the herring, that these fish only come together at the spawning season, and that at all other times they live a separate and individual life, which, if true, is exceedingly curious.—*The Gentleman's Magazine for December.*

A DISCIPLINARIAN.—On Saturday we halted for half an hour to trade with old JAN JONKER, bartering, in this short space, upward of thirty head of cattle and about a hundred sheep and goats. The old man himself stood by to see that justice was done to us as well as to his people. They were obliged to be content with what he thought sufficient in exchange for an ox, and they seemed to respect his authority more than I have ever seen Namaqua subjects do before. But there is a reason for this, he being well known as a stern and unyielding disciplinarian—so uncompromising, indeed, that it is said of him that, when his own daughter had disgraced herself by becoming pregnant before marriage, he, after lecturing her severely in a most fatherly way, became the executioner himself, and shot her. In like manner, also, he shot his favorite son, to whom he had given an order to fetch in some refractory subject, in which the youth failed. But old JAN JONKER, determined that his orders should be obeyed, sent him again, warning him at the same time that if he had again to fetch this man he would punish his son with death. The son again failed through lack of spirit; JAN JONKER brought in the refractory subject and punished his own son with death. I regretted very much the not being able to photograph these people, for JAN JONKER's wife, who had been conveyed here in a bullock wagon, is a woman of enormous proportions. Her arms were fully equal in size to my waist, and her body proportionately large; her breasts were of most unseemly dimensions—something wonderful to behold. She was so fat as to be almost incapable of voluntary locomotion, and totally blind, having been so from childhood; and her daughter, who was with her, has likewise been blind from infancy. Her case confirms the common observation, that the loss of one faculty or organ improves the acuteness of others. The girl is remarkably clever at working with beads, and judging of their respective colors by their touch alone. She can select any particular color from among a dozen others, and sew them into all sorts of agreeable and fanciful patterns—generally on a black sheep-skin garment. This article, the bridegroom's present to his bride on her wedding-day, is called the "brock-kaross;" and, in order to put her in possession of such a skin, the bridegroom is expected always to give her, before marriage, a present of a black sheep. It is amusing to hear old Mrs. JONKER and her daughter discussing the colors of different things, and beads in particular.—*Travels in the Interior of South Africa, by James Chapman.*

THE VILLAGE MAIDEN.

Plying thoughtfully her needles, see her sitting
In the slanting sunlight, on the village green,
As if weaving in the stockings she is knitting,
Here and there—a memory of what has been.

Fair she is, and neat and clean and very comely;
Seeking peace alone where peace is to be had;
Just the one to make a home supremely homely,
And a heart in search of gladness truly glad.

Is she dreaming really of the days departed,
Or of what are yet to come with fewer fears?
Does she image forth no lover, tender-hearted,
Drawing near and ever nearer through the years?

Life 's deceitful in its aspect, meekest maiden;
And what seems so fair to-day may prove as foul;
Gay at morning, and at even, sorrow-laden,
We may be, and often are, without control.

Yet, meek maiden, fill thy mouth with phantom kisses,
Sitting thoughtful in the drooping purple light,
And dream on thy pleasant dream of honied blisses,
Knitting far into the mellow autumn night.

—Facts and Fancies from The Farm.

BRIGHT AND LOWE.

From the Gentleman's Magazine.

It is 5 o'clock, and a great debate has been adjourned. Or the Commons' chamber is lighted up, and members are flocking in after a late dinner, when a member rises from the third bench below the gangway. No man's face is better known, and yet those who have sat opposite to him for years will regard him with surprise in the new Parliament, if they do not fail for the moment to recognize him. The candidate for a hearing prepossesses you by his fine personal presence. He is rather tall, is robust of frame, and of somewhat burly aspect. His face is broad and full, but the comely Saxon features become almost handsome when, as he proceeds, they are fairly illuminated by intelligence. Within less than a year his dark or grizzled hair, which is tolerably vigorous and abundant in growth, has become perfectly white, imparting something of the venerable to a man of florid complexion, very little advanced, it would appear, beyond the prime of manhood. There is a sudden cheer when he presents himself; then an instant hush. A scout or two leave the lobby to communicate the news to friends in library and tea-room, and in five minutes every seat on the floor is filled. He begins slowly and with the most perfect freedom from embarrassment. He clears his voice from time to time, but it remains husky to the end. After a few preliminary remarks he addresses himself to the members on the opposite side of the House. There are three hundred of them; they detest his politics; and every man has a cry of "Oh!" ready, which will spring into sound probably before he has half finished his sentence. Yet his eye ranges calmly along the serried ranks of his opponents, and what he has to say is addressed directly and almost personally to each individual. "If I were in your place I should take a very different view of the subject. I cannot understand why you, the country gentlemen of England, should adopt such and such a line of policy." Nathan did not speak to King David with more plainness and boldness. Worst of all, this man of plain Saxon speech seldom fails to remind them that upon all the great questions of the last quarter of a century he has been right, and that they, sooner or later, have come round to his views. This argument he seldom fails to drive home to a practical application. He asks whether it is not more than probable he is right also upon this particular question. The ready "Oh!" and the indignant "No!" burst forth in one deafening shout, and then, entirely unabashed, and indeed appearing to derive great comfort from their out-spokenness, the plain, robust, comely man of Anglo-Saxon stock goes on to prove his position. He helped, it seems, to pass Free Trade. The Minister of the day has just passed his Reform bill. An Ex-Minister has just passed his Church Rate bill. Never did a man of extreme and unpopular opinions enter the political arena with such a terrible prestige of past success. To hear any one else talk of "educating" this party when the great schoolmaster himself has the class before him, seems little less than absurd.

If true eloquence may be rightly defined as the apt and forcible expression and illustration of just and noble thoughts, it cannot be denied that Mr. BRIGHT is a great orator. That he is a just and sound thinker would be denied by many who would admit that he is a powerful reasoner. The peculiarity which a stranger first remarks is his calmness and deliberation. His slow and measured style is admirably adapted to the reception of great and weighty arguments. Not a single link in the chain of reasoning is lost by dropping the voice, or by haste in passing on to the next sentence. Every shot tells. The result of this consummate ease and calmness, gained upon a thousand platforms, is, that the audience mentally canvass and discuss every sentence and every proposition. They examine, compare, reject or approve, as the orator goes on, to a degree impossible with speakers of more rapid utterance. They may utter protesting cries, but they cannot choose but listen, and they thus become familiarized with ideas and modes of thought which, at first repugnant, afterward cease to be regarded as un-English and revolutionary.

Ask a hundred members who is the greatest orator of the British House of Commons, and the majority will exclaim, unhesitatingly, "BRIGHT!" This opinion may seem to conflict with the estimate above expressed in regard to Mr. GLADSTONE, and yet the preference would be given to Mr. BRIGHT by those who would indorse all that has been said here in regard to Mr. GLADSTONE's greatness as an orator, or in a former paper about Mr. DISRAELI's wit and versatility as a debater. A Minister and an Opposition leader are in great danger, to use an expressive phrase, of making themselves "too cheap." They must speak on a variety of topics with which they cannot be equally well acquainted. On party questions, involving party divisions, the party leader is expected to direct and guide his followers. He cannot speak equally well on every subject, and the edge of curiosity becomes in some degree blunted by his frequent entrances and exits. But an independent member in Mr. BRIGHT's position does wisely in speaking seldom. Almost all his harangues may be described as great speeches, *i. e.*, speeches carefully prepared upon momentous subjects. Mr. BRIGHT took credit the other day for avoiding topics which he had not thoroughly mastered and made his own. The list of subjects with which he has identified himself in the public mind is not a long one, but they are all of imperial importance. The Government of India, Parliamentary Reform, Church Rates, the condition of Ireland in relation to the Habeas Corpus Suspension bill, Land Tenure and the Irish Church, include almost all the topics which form the staple of Mr. BRIGHT's parliamentary speeches. Upon these matters, when they form the battle-ground of party, Mr. BRIGHT speaks with dignity and power as the leader of the advanced Liberals, and the House listens with zest, first, because of his infrequent presentations, and next, because the topics are the most weighty and important that can occupy the attention of Parliament. To compare Mr. BRIGHT fairly with the leaders of the Conservative and Liberal Parties respectively, he must for a series of months stand at the table as a Minister or head of a department, reply to questions, enter into explanations on matters of comparative trivial importance, and defend himself against caustic and irritating criticism on questions of detail. At present Mr. BRIGHT stands upon a vantage ground of superiority over those who are obliged to throw themselves into every contest, and without detracting from his great and undoubted talent, it may be questioned whether many who speak of him as the greatest speaker of the House do not really mean that he devotes a larger proportion of his speeches to great subjects—treating them worthily, no doubt—than any other man in the House.

The slow swing and sturdy blow of the ponderous hammer have ceased, and the great Thor of our English democracy has resumed his seat amid the often renewed cheers of his Liberal allies, when suddenly the sound like that of an alarum running down is heard. A figure like that of Saul, the son of Kish—"higher than any of the people from his shoulders and upward"—has arisen. The hair is even whiter than that of Mr. BRIGHT, but it is not the whiteness of age or of change. The bushy eyebrows are equally white. The eyes, more than half closed, seem unconscious of the objects before them. If the iris could be discerned its color would be seen to be red, but this additional proof is hardly needed that the speaker is an Albino. The face is beardless, and the complexion somewhat more florid than is usual in individuals of this type. There is a hush, and complete silence, which only add to the nervousness and embarrassment of the new speaker. He is evidently, by his felicitous phrases, a master of our noble English tongue, and some brilliant introductory paradox or antithesis gives proof of an unusually acute and trained intellect. A practiced judge would suppose he had been in early life a recluse, possibly the fellow and tutor of his college, who had thought and written much on political questions, and then, on issuing forth late in life to take a leading part in parliamentary debate, had discovered his want of early oratorical training. He has wit, fertility of illustration, abundant classical lore, and has carefully prepared what he has intended to say. If he could pause, if he could look his audience in the face, instead of turning his eyes on the ceiling or the table—if, in short, he gave them time, like the last speaker, the new candidate might dispute the palm of oratory with the best speakers of the House. But his only hope of avoiding hesitation and failure is in evading the echoes of his own voice by a rapid utterance of what he has to say. Thought, diction, and delivery are necessary to make the perfect orator, and he has only two of these qualifications. So the alarm runs down without pause, emphasis, inflection or rhythm. So great is his nervousness that he cannot stop to inflate his lungs at the end of a long sentence. He begins another in the same instant, and has to stop in the middle to gasp and take breath. From the same cause his hands are usually glued down to his sides throughout a long speech, so that he looks like one of CALCRAFT's clients, who, after being pinioned, wishes to address a few words to the Sheriff and his Christian friends.

But the white head continues to glisten in the brilliant light which pours down like a flood from the roof, and the speaker's rhetorical deficiencies are forgotten in the incisiveness of his style, in his acuteness, his daring, his logic, his originality, and the cogency of his argument. He fears no opponent, and has attacked by turn almost all the men of note in the House, until the moment has arrived when he feelingly describes himself as a political outcast. Before he has been long on his legs he will at one moment say so well what is in everybody's mind that he will be rewarded with a general cheer. He will then fix some previous speaker so neatly on the horns of a dilemma that there will be a hearty laugh at the expense of the victim. Many cries of "Oh!" arise from one side, and of "Hear!" from the other before he sits down. But these interjections are, perforce, sharp and short, for the orator does not wait for cheers, and dashes through interruptions. The alarum cannot stop, or, to vary the figure, this is an express train that does not stop even at the principal stations. The House is unwilling to lose a single word, and gives him a constrained and eager attention to the end, when a general cheer rewards the orator for the high intellectual treat which has been keenly enjoyed by friends and foes.

The difference between the two styles is altogether in favor of Mr. BRIGHT. The one is like a slow, gentle, fertilizing rain, which sinks deep and penetrates to the root of every plant. The other is like some hasty violent shower, which does not "drop fatness," but runs off the surface into turbid ditches and watercourses. Perhaps one reason why Mr. LOWE's speeches have had so little practical influence on the action of the House of Commons is, that his style of delivery might be more correctly described as "jabber" and "chatter" than as oratory.

THE CHAUCER WINDOW, WESTMINSTER ABBEY.—A memorial of CHAUCER has been set up in Poets' Corner, immediately over his tomb. The design is intended to embody his intellectual labors and his position among his contemporaries. At the base are the Canterbury Pilgrims, showing the setting out from London and the arrival at Canterbury. The medallions above represent CHAUCER receiving a commission, with others, in 1372, from King EDWARD III. to the Doge of Genoa, and his reception by the latter. At the top the subjects are taken from the poem entitled "The Floure and the Leafe." On the dexter side, dressed in white, are the Lady of the Leafe, and attendants; on the sinister side is the Lady of the Floure, dressed in green. In the tracery above, the portrait of CHAUCER occupies the centre, between that of EDWARD III. and PHILIPPA, his wife; below them, GOWER JOHN OF GAUNT; and above are WICKLIFFE and STRODE, his contemporaries. In the borders are disposed arms. At the base of the window is the name GEOFFREY CHAUCER, died A. D. 1,400, and four lines selected from the poem entitled "Balade of Gode Counsaile:"

"Flee fro the press, and dwell with soth-fastnesse,
Suffice unto thy good though it be small;"

* * * * *

"That thee is sent receyve in buxomnesse;
The wrastling for this world asketh a fall."

This window was designed by Mr. J. G. WALLER, and executed by Messrs. THOMAS BAILLIE and GEORGE MAYER. It is a brilliant piece of color, and an interesting addition to the attractions of the abbey. This and the Brunel window deserve the attention of students of modern stained glass. CHAUCER's tomb should now be cleared of some of the disfigurements around it.—*Builder.*

A CURIOUS FACT.—It is not, I think, surprising that a man when he wants sympathy in such a calamity as that which had now befallen Phineas Finn, should seek it from a woman. Women sympathize most effectually with men, as men do with women. But it is, perhaps, a little odd that a man when he wants consolation because his heart has been broken, always likes to receive it from a pretty woman. One would be disposed to think that at such a moment he would be profoundly indifferent to such a matter, that no delight could come to him from female beauty, and that all he would want would be the softness of a simply sympathetic soul. But he generally wants a soft hand as well, and an eye that can be bright behind the mutual tear, and lips that shall be young and fresh as they express their concern for his sorrow.—*St. Paul's Magazine for December.*

GENERAL REMARKS ON THE FASHIONS.—Doubtless the *à-la-mode* dresses will become as general in England as they are on the Continent. At first they will be shyly adopted till, like the once ample crinoline so recently deposed, they will be seen everywhere. It is by no means unbecoming for young girls, and there is about it a jauntiness and a charm which captivate; but it must be modestly worn; it will not admit of the least exaggeration in its adaptation to figure, nor in the "tone" of its wearer. It has the recommendation of being a convenient attire; the skirt and apron can be worn in the morning at home, and the addition of the looped tunic at the back at once converts it into a finished dress for the promenade. Cloth dresses and thick serges are frequently seen, always looped on each side over a camlet petticoat; where the latter is exposed by the loopings of the dress, are several rows of braid graduated in width; a short paletot with long ends in front, of the same material; a muff braided with black braid, as a border on each side; and a grebe hat with turned-up edge of black velvet, at the side a rosette of scarlet feathers. The petticoats underneath the looped-up dresses are of the brightest and best contrasting colors; most of these are flounced at the sides where the dress is caught up. A novelty has been introduced which looks extremely well in old point or other lace. It is the collar of our sailors, and is worn very much in the same manner; it is loosely confined by a ribbon passing through the collar, and is slightly knotted in front. The two points in front touch the two points of the shoulders. Paletots of sealskin, also of unspotted ermine, and of velvet bordered with sable, are fashionable, but they are all short, reaching only to a little below the waist. Long coats of cloth are worn, but without the panier robe; they are also made in rep and velvet, and have capes, which are short, both in front and at the back. These long coats have a style in them from their being made much longer in the back than in the front; they are cut in two pieces. The length commences at each side under the seam of the bodice. The back is semi-fitting. The front reaches about nine inches below the waist, and is terminated by a rich flounce of black lace. The fronts are buttoned from the throat downward. Paletots worn with panier robes are made of rich corded silk; the fronts are lined with very thin flannel, this having another lining of sarcenet. Other paletots of varied forms are general, and the inexpensive velveteen, made short

and without trimming, beyond being fastened with silk buttons, gimped on each side the button-holes, is very popular, and with this a small muff of velveteen, having a band of fur in the centre. The new color for dresses is the Bordeaux—a deep claret color, which is an excellent tint for brunettes. In dark garnet velvet the effect is very beautiful, and white lace shows on it most exquisitely. The very newest material is the Colibri. It is of velvet or satin, and, as its name implies, resembles the iridescent breast-plumage of the humming-bird; and for these a trimming composed of the feathers of various birds has been improvised. The plumage of the peacock, the pheasant, and the cock, have been impressed for the service, and with success.—*Ladies' Treasury.*

BLESSINGS IN DISGUISE.

From the Sunday Magazine.

Mine eyes were stiffened with the last night's tears,
And my brow ached too heavily to weep,
Oppress with sorrow past and future fears,
Too weary to awake—too sad to sleep.

With listless hand I drew away the blind
To look where lay the morning dull and gray;
I heard no whisper of the cold night wind,
I saw no gleam to chase the gloom away.

Spread like a mourning vail on every hill
Hung cheerless mist, through which the dark dawn crept;
The raindrops on the trees lay cold and still,
Like tears of one who in his sleep hath wept.

Sadly I turned and laid me down again
Till sorrow's leaden trance my sense did steal,
As those who lulled by very strength of pain
Forget their pain awhile and cease to feel.

So passed the hours away, and I awoke;
But while I slept the world had traveled on—
The damp mist rolled away, the morning broke,
And, pouring radiance forth, uprose the sun.

The purple hills were tinged with living light,
The grass was waving in the morning breeze,
Like sparkling gems the raindrops of the night
In rainbow showers were glittering from the trees.

Then my heart melted too, and the deep gloom
Passed like the dreary morning mist away;
The sun shone warm and bright into my room,
And I rose up from my dull trance to pray.

O God, most merciful! 'tis ever so;
While thankless man feels but the present pain,
And lies steeped in the weariness of woe,
Thy step is drawing near to heal again.

Then teach us, Lord, to bow beneath the rod,
Even for the chastisement to love the more;
To trust the mercy of the loving God,
And in the very blow His hand adore.

So shall we walk through our life's chequer'd day,
Safe from its noontide heat, its evening blight,
Till the last hour of gloom shall pass away,
And leave us to awake in endless light.

BETTING AND BETTERS.

From Bailey's Magazine of Sports for December.

No one can deny that a great betting mania has most thoroughly permeated all classes of this nation of shopkeepers, and the facilities for speculation are rapidly on the increase. To prove this we need only look ten or fifteen years back, and ask ourselves the question whether it would have been possible to invest such large sums on a paltry race in the country, as are now piled on in the metropolis itself, upon the petty encounters at Bromley or West Drayton? The extermination of the betting-houses, and the raid upon open-air speculators, would seem only to have sharpened the appetite of the British public, who now hanker more keenly than ever after the forbidden fruit, and pour their monkeys and ponies, their quids and dollars, into the coffers of commission agents, until the bookmaking clans have well-nigh become the dictators of the turf, have raised palaces as tokens of success in their craft, and revel in their vessels of silver and jewels of gold, of which they have spoiled the nobles of the land. Backing horses, as the million are in the habit of doing, cannot but be a losing game in the end; and yet no succession of defeated favorites, no reverses of scratching, or nauseating repetitions of "milking," can abate one jot of the determination to come up again and again to a self-encouraged slaughter of the innocents. This tenacity of purpose in the indulgence of gaming propensities, fostered by the unbounded confidence of speculators in that "glorious fellowship of prophets" which afford their *pabulum* of sporting news to a craving public in the pages of the daily Press, has been the means of bringing down upon their own heads the punishment of their blindness, and from their impetuous raids upon the market to make their investments while prices are tempting, has resulted that system of fraud and chicanery which threatens, unless timely checked, to prove fatal to the best interests of the turf. It did not require much cunning to conceive, nor much ingenuity to carry out, a system by which winning might be reduced to a certainty, nor were there wanting those fallen spirits with which every community abounds to batten on gains from an overcredulous public, who rushed like sheep into the trap set for fleecing them, and who, like a swarm of bees, were content to follow the sounding brass and tinkling cymbal which lured him on to their destruction. From owners of horses, and from the gent of the ring, these harpies could not hope to draw their ill-gotten gains; but could they once enlist the in crest and support of a body as yet uneducated in turf pursuits, then only the cards were wanting to make the game their own, and for this purpose names of horses alone were almost sufficient; and it mattered little, so long as their existence was not called in question, whether they ever appeared on a race-course or not, for the victims were never wearied of waiting for that "good thing" which they felt assured was yet in store for those who could bide their time. And into the services of those who divided the spoils was pressed a cloud of false witnesses, whose business it was to run to and fro upon the earth, and by dark sayings and specious lies, to foster in the interest of the public in some animal, of which was merely the shadow of the good things to come, but which, in the substance, came not at all, or came only to deceive. Such were the schemes which an unscrupulous few devised and perfected, and which their successors in infamy have handed down, enlarged and amply illustrated, to the men of our own time. From transactions such as these the atmosphere of the turf has been corrupted and tainted, and the attributes of a noble sport have become a scorn and derision among a class of men who, neither imbued by the thirst of speculation, nor interested in the pursuit of racing as a national pastime, have taken an outside view of matters as they appear to be, and whose natural inference is that, from the palpable rottenness of affairs on the surface, there cannot exist at the core that soundness and vitality which is essential to the existence of racing institutions, as to the ordinary business and occupation of everyday life. The adversements which crowd the columns of our less reputable sporting papers are a standing monument to the evils and hourly succession of fools and dupes, without which the profession of knavery could not exist; theirs is a hopeless case, indeed; but they by no means comprise even a small majority of the speculative public. The "thirteen stamp" fraternity do not flourish by the patronage of the million; the bold Briton backs his fancy, and gives owners of horses credit for sentiments of uprightness which they do not always evince; but he is apt to grumble audibly should anything occur to depreciate the value of his market commodity, and without dreaming of his own indiscretion, to turn round upon those with whose property he has, in better phraseology, been "taking liberties." Here there undoubtedly is a grievance; but it is a grievance the remedy for which lies in his own hands. It has indeed been urged, and with some appearance of truth, that betting, like other necessary evils, if it cannot be eradicated, can at least, be controlled; that, like an epidemic, it can be mitigated, if not stamped out; but, upon consideration, it must be confessed that if the Jockey Club can do nothing to keep speculation within bounds, and decline to recognize betting transactions as the ordaining within their province, any suggestion would be fruitless having for its basis an attempt to regulate one of the wildest passions of mankind, by the enactment of laws which must needs be unwritten. And whereas it is obvious that a self-inflicted grievance presses hardly upon the general body of the public, and that the remedy lies with them, it may not be out of place to help them on their way toward a solution of that difficulty. They must be well aware that, by rushing on indiscriminately, they are not only spoiling their own game, but absolutely encouraging those questionable tactics of which they are the first to complain. They cannot doubt that "milking" manœuvres would never be attempted without the certainty to the perpetrators of a goodly division of spoil; and they are well aware that as hawks are not in the habit of tearing out each other's eyes, so these predatory gangs do not prey one upon another, but wage common war upon the ignorant and the unwary who venture within reach of their toils; and further they cannot but confess that they are as pigmies in the hands of giants, and can obtain no redress for the swindling they so often experience. Seeing, therefore, that the spirit of speculation is incapable of control, much more of repression, would it not be for their benefit to dismiss from their minds the chimera of long prices, with their inevitably concomitant dangers, and to rely for the future on shorter prices and post-betting, so that at the least their money may be carried by some animal in the flesh, whose owner, however unscrupulous, may deem it worth his while, now that the tone of the milk market is low, to go straight for the loaves and fishes, and condescend, perhaps, to appreciate a valuable stake at its due importance? Ideas such as these may probably be considered Utopian by those whose knowledge of turf affairs has led them to despair of better things, and to regard with callous indifference the gradual decadence of the sport of a great people; but it is a scandal that the turf—of all national institutions at once the most important and the most prominent—should bear the stigma of reproach which attaches to it, solely for the reason that its devotees will not take the heart to consult their own interests. So eager is the pursuit of racing, and so widely increasing the great betting mania, that bookmaking has become one of the most lucrative and engrossing professions which occupy the brains of the greatest mercantile community in the world. And while we would ascribe all honor due to those whose integrity and high-mindedness has made them men of mark in a calling of which the ascent is slippery, and footing on its summit treacherous and uncertain, we would warn the inexperienced again and again, that the lions in their path are many and watchful, and that it behoves them to be on their guard against the legion of sharpers, whose degrading practices have brought the honorable body of turfmen into disrepute. They who would be helpen must needs help themselves, and these, in their work of expurgation of Welshers and turf vermin, will enlist public sympathy and support, and earn a further meed of gratitude from those who, having hitherto relied on their probity, have incurred an extra obligation by the desire to free themselves from contamination of worthless traders upon honest names.

We are not so sanguine as to believe that knaves and fools will ever cease out of the land; nor can we be brought to contemplate the possibility of betting operations being so regulated and controlled as to shut the door effectually against the fraudulent practices which now revel in their impunity; but having pointed out the evil as it now exists, and its antidote, we may venture to hope that some check will be given to the encouragement of evils, which, like noxious weeds, have sprung up and choked the fair growth of an ancient and deeply-rooted institution.

A MINING CITY.—The population is still a shifting one. A by-law of the municipality tells us that the "permanent population" consists of those who reside more than a month within the city. At this moment the miners are pouring into Washoe from north, and south, and east, from Montana, from Arizona, and from Utah, coming to the gayeties of the largest mining city to spend their money during the fierce short Winter. When I saw Virginia City it was worse than Austin. Every other house is a restaurant, a drinking shop, a gambling hell, or worse. With no one to make beds, mend clothes, to cook food—with no house, no home—men are almost certain to drink and gamble. The Washoe bar-rooms are the most brilliant in the States. As we drove in from Austin at 2 o'clock A. M., there was blaze enough for us to see from the frozen streets the portraits of LOLA MONTEZ, ADA MENKEN, HEENAN, and other California celebrities, with which the bar-rooms were adorned. Although "petticoats," even Chinese, are scarce, dancing was going on in every house; but there is a rule in miners' balls that prevents all difficulties arising from an over supply of men; every one who has a patch on the rear portion of his breeches does duty for a lady in the dance, and as gentlemen are forced by the customs of the place to treat their partners at the bar, patches are popular.—*Great Britain. By Charles Wentworth Dilke.*

SHAVING IN THE NAVY.—In our little gunboat, on the coast of Africa, we, both officers and men, used, under the rose, to cultivate the moustache and whiskers, until we fell in with the ship of the Commodore of the station. Then, when the Commander gave the order "All hands to shave," never was such a hurly-burly seen, such racing hither and thither, (for not a moment was to be lost,) such sharpening of scissors and furbishing up of rusty razors. On one occasion I remember sending our steward, who was lathering his face with a blacking-brush, and trying to scrape with a carving-knife, to borrow the Commander's razor; in the meantime, the Commander had dispatched his soapy-faced servant to beg the loan of mine. Both stewards met with a clash, nearly running each other through the body with their shaving gear. I lent the Commander a Syme's bistoury, with which he managed to pluck most of the hairs out by the root, as if he meant to transplant them again, while I myself shaved with an amputating knife. The men forward stuck by the scissors; and when the Commander, with bloody chin and watery eyes, asked why they did not shave—"Why, Sir," replied the boatswain's mate, "the cockroaches have been and gone and eaten all our razors, they has, Sir." Then, had you seen us reappear on deck after the terrible operation, with our white shaven lips and shivering chins, and a foolish grin on every face, you would, but for our uniform, have taken us for sailors on strike, so unlike were we to the brave-looking, manly dare-devils that trod the deck only an hour before.—*Medical Life in the Navy. By W. Stables, M. D.*

IMPORTANT DISCOVERY CONCERNING FORKS.—Hitherto FYNES MORYSON, an Elizabethan traveler, and THOS. CORYAT, a Jacobean traveler, have always been quoted as a proof of the earliest mention of forks as a new invention of the sixteenth century. MORYSON says: "At Venice each person was served (besides his knife and spoon) with a fork to hold the meat while he cuts it, for there they deem it ill-manners that one should touch it with his hand." CORYAT, writing in 1604, describes with his usual Pepysian unction the Venetian custom of forks and umbrellas, and adds of the former, "I myself have thought it good to imitate the Italian fashion since I came home to England, and describes his merciless friend, Mr. WHITTAKER, who does not scruple at table to nickname him "Furcifer," from his fantastic predilection to those "Italian neatnesses," namely, forks. Now, at the late Art Exhibition at Leeds, there happened to be a singular picture by BERNARDINO PINTURRICCHIO (1454–1513) epitomising events in the history of the Piccolomini of Sienna (Number Eleven, Gallery A.) In one part of this picture there are tables laid out ready prepared for a banquet. They stand near a buffet of several tiers, on which are arranged gold cups and chased salvers. On the tables you can see a knife and fork laid for every guest, besides a manchet or roll. There are also Venetian enameled red dishes, and, if we remember right, little nosegays placed with great taste for each person. This, therefore, clearly proves that, though VOLTAIRE might be hasty in placing the introduction of forks as early as he does, yet that forks were in full use in Italy before 1513. The fact is incontrovertible.—*Dickens' All the Year Round.*

THE SHIP'S SURGEON.—Nowadays Government kindly allows each commissioned officer one half of a servant, or one whole one between two officers, which, at times, is found to be rather an awkward arrangement; as, for instance you and, say, the lieutenant of marines, have each the half of the same servant, and you wish your half to go on shore with a message, and the lieutenant requires his half to remain on board; the question then comes to be one which only the wisdom of Solomon could solve, in the same way that ALEXANDER the Great loosed the Gordian knot. Your servant then, on entering your cabin in the morning, carefully and quietly deposits the contents of your pockets on your table, and taking all your clothes and your boots in his arms, silently flits from view and shortly after reenters, having in the interval neatly folded and brushed them. You are just turning round to go to sleep again, when "Six bells, Sir, please," remarks your man, laying his hand on your elbow, and giving you a gentle shake to insure your resuscitation, and which will generally have the effect of causing you to spring at once from your cot, perhaps in your hurry nearly upsetting the cup of delicious ship's cocoa which he has kindly saved to you from his own breakfast—a no small sacrifice, either, if you bear in mind that his own allowance is by no means very large, and that his breakfast consists of cocoa and biscuits alone—these last too often containing more weevils than flour. As you hurry into your bath your servant coolly informs you, "Plenty of time, Sir; doctor himself hasn't turned out yet." "Then," you inquire, "it isn't six bells?" "Not a bit on it, Sir," he replies; "wants the quarter." The rogue has lied to get you up. At 7 o'clock exactly you make your way forward to the sick-bay, on the lower deck, at the ship's bows. Now, this making your way forward isn't by any means such an easy task as one might imagine; for at that hour the deck is swarming with the men at their toilet, stripped to the waist, every man at his tub, lathering, splashing, scrubbing and rubbing, talking, laughing, joking, singing, sweating and swearing. Finding your way obstructed, you venture to touch one mildly on the bare back, as a hint to move aside and let you pass; the man immediately damns your eyes, then begs pardon, and says he thought it was Bill "at his lark again." Another, who is bending down over his tub, you touch more firmly on the *os innominatum*, and ask him, in a free-and-easy sort of tone, to "sing round there." He "slues round," very quickly, too, but unfortunately in the wrong direction, and ten to one capsizes you in a tub of dirty soapsuds. Having picked yourself up, you pursue your journey, and sing out as a general sort of warning—"Gangway there, lads," which causes at least a dozen of these worthies to pass such ironical remarks to their companions as "Out of the doctor's way there, Tom." "Let the gentleman pass, can't you, Jack?" "Port your helm, Mat; the doctor wants you to." "Round with your stern, Bill; the surgeon's mate is a passing." "Kick that donkey Jones out of the doctor's road,"—while at the same time it is always the speaker himself who is in the way. At last, however, you reach the sick-bay in safety, and retire within the screen. Here, if a strict service-man, you will find the surgeon already seated; and presently the other assistant enters, and the work is begun. There is a sick-bay man, or dispenser, and a sick-bay cook attached to the medical department. The surgeon generally does the brain work, and the assistants the finger work; and, to their shame be it spoken, there are some surgeons too proud to consult their younger brethren, whom they treat as assistant drudges, not assistant surgeons. At 8 o'clock—before or after—the work is over, and you are off to breakfast.—*Medical Life in the Navy. By W. Stables, M. D.*

SKETCHES IN ENGLAND.

Scenes About Bath—The Mail Coaches—The Pump-Room—Amusements and Society—Architectural Sights.

From Our Own Correspondent.

BATH, Wednesday, Dec. 9, 1868.

As far as I know, Bath is the oldest and most famous of the pleasure towns of England. It is one of the places where "they toil not, neither do they spin." They eat, drink, walk, ride, take baths and read novels. Bath is not the fashion now, as it was in the days of the Emperor ADRIAN, Queen ANNE and three of the four GEORGES, but in other respects it holds its own, and though losing its poor, is increasing its wealthy population. It lies in a warm valley of the River Avon—not the river of Shakspearean fame, but the one that forms the port of Bristol—sheltered on all sides by hills from five to eight hundred feet high, up which its suburbs climb in splendid terraces and luxurious villas. Bath is 107 miles from London on the Great Western Railway, the broad-guage swell line, chiefly traversed by royalty, dukes, marquises and the lesser nobility. On a pinch, the guards will admit a baronet into a first-class carriage, if they are not crowded. The line does not pay very well, because swells want so much room. Three feet of seat might do for themselves, but they require several yards for their dignity. You can seldom get more that two swells into a compartment intended for ten ordinary persons; so that the first-class carriages, on all the lines, pay less according to space, than the third class.

In the good old times, before the railways spoiled everything, the mail coaches from London to Bath, just a pretty ten hours' drive, were an immense institution. Fifty coaches, drivers and guards in uniform, each with four shining blood horses, gay with outside passengers, ladies as well as gentlemen, whips cracking, horns blowing, dashed off from the "White House," Piccadilly, along Green Park, Hyde Park, Kensington Gardens and so on past Kew, Windsor and all up the quiet Thames valley, many branching off right and left, but still a glorious company rolling in to Bath at sunset. You do it now in three hours, reading your *Times;* but you see nothing, hear nothing, enjoy nothing.

Bath had a right to be proud of its mail coaches; for PALMER, who invented them, was a native of Bath. He was proprietor of the Bath Theatre, and also of one at Bristol, twelve miles distant, and employed a coach to convey his dramatic company in its frequent changes between the two places. This was about 1785, and at this time the mail was carried all over England in Government carts, on horseback, or by foot carriers. Mr. PALMER saw that his coaches always beat the mail carts; he saw also that it would be a safer and cheaper mode of conveyance, and he memorialized the Government on the subject—of course in vain. He offered to organize the system for two and a half per cent. on the increase of revenue, and, though his proposal was accepted, everything was done to thwart the undertaking. At last he appealed to Mr. PITT, who, as the only mode of dealing with the case effectually, appointed him Surveyor and Comptroller of the Post Office Department, with power to carry out this system; but the Government managed at last to cheat him out of half the profits to which he was fairly entitled. He died in 1811.

Bath was a great place in the time of the Romans. Of course, every famous place in England claims a much higher antiquity than that; but after a thorough examination of all the pre-historic myths, I am satisfied that the Romans discovered Bath, and made it the first and most renowned watering place in England. There is a statue at Bath, of a King Bladud, who is said to have founded Bath 863 years before Christ; but some wag invented Bladud in the last century, and got up the practical joke of inducing the people of Bath to subscribe for this statue to his memory. The Romans had a military station at Bath A. D. 50. They found it a warm, sheltered valley, with hills commanding a wide range of country, on a pretty river, and, with what they valued more than all—plenty of hot water for their baths. Whereon the Romans established a military station in Britain, they introduced warm bathing; and here was the water, all hot, running to waste in the greatest abundance. In a quiet unvolcanic region, with the thin strata of limestone as level as a lake, with thick beds of oolite undisturbed by the slightest upheaval, in the centre of this valley there rushes up from unknown depths 126 gallons a minute of water heated to 117 degrees. It has flowed at the same rate ever since, and does not vary in temperature. Finding such a place as this, of course the Romans went in and built baths, temples, villas, a manufactory of arms; built walls around the whole, part of which still remain—built, in short, a splendid and luxurious city. The barbarians who succeeded them of course destroyed what they could of it—time covered it all over for more than a thousand years—then in digging for the foundations of the present edifices there were found tessellated pavements, pillars, friezes, altars, inscriptions—the remains of an age and people which have left to us so many lessons. The Roman baths discovered in 1755 were twenty feet below the level of the surrounding streets, raised by the dust blown or the earth washed from the surrounding hills. The antiquities rescued from this dusty oblivion are collected in a very interesting museum. The inscriptions on the tombstones are curiously like those in modern graveyards. Here are two: "To the memory of CAIUS CALPURNIUS, a priest of the goddess Sul, who died at the age of 75, his wife, CALPURNIA TRIFOSA THREPTE, has caused this stone to be erected;" "JULIUS VITALIS, a Belgian by nation, an armourer of the 20th Legion, Valerian and Victorius, who died in the 29th of his age, and the 9th of his service, was buried here by the company of armourers."

The Romans made Bath their chief city in the southwest of England, from its conquest until A. D. 441. Here resided AGRICOLA, GETA and ADRIAN; here may have visited the Empress HELLENA, and CONSTANTINE. Here gouty Romans came to soak their aching toes, and Roman belles and swells to sit the waters steaming hot, in the Pump-room of the period. But when the Romans called in their legions from the extremities of the Empire to protect the decaying centre, their successors, Britons, Saxons and Danes, seem to have let palaces, temples and baths all go to ruin. The Saxons came in and took the city, after a hard fight, in 577. A nunnery was founded here in 676; EDGAR was crowned here in 973. Modern Bath, a city of 55,000 inhabitants, is built upon the ruins of the Roman town. Its centre is the great fountain of hot water, and the baths built around it; close by, the Abbey Church probably stands upon the ruins of a heathen temple, and as you walk through streets, squares, crescents, built with the heavy magnificence of the Georgian era, or saunter in the Pump-room, with its statue of Beau NASH, lulled with the plash of the steaming fountain, or enlivened with the strains of VERDI or OFFENBACH, pouring down from the orchestra, and watch the belle and beau of the period, representing the tag-rag and the bob-tail of fashionable society, as they sweep and amble up and down the splendid *salon*, the past and the present—the Bath of the Romans, and of the Britons of to-day—get mixed up in a strange confusion.

You will find Bath described in the guide books as the finest city in England, and its universal dinginess is rather disappointing. If the English, having once built on a grand scale with a beautiful stone of nearly the color and texture of that in Paris, would but keep it clean; if they would scrape off the thick covering of soot once in five years, Bath, in spite of its bad architecture, would be beautiful, for it has wide streets solidly and uniformly built, noble squares, and above all, stately crescents, with those grand sweeps of pillared residences, whose effect nothing can entirely spoil—but the whole town is covered with a dingy coat of soot which blurs and blackens everything. The dwellings are large and evidently luxurious; the shops are as handsome and richly furnished as those on Regent-street; heavy old carriages, drawn by tall, high-stepping horses, and driven by coachmen who are never allowed to weigh under two hundred, and attended by footmen never less than six feet in height, are filled by old East and West Indians, rich and fat dowagers, and people who live to drive and dine, and who never die under ninety. I have visited many English pleasure towns, but Bath is at once the richest, grandest, dullest of them all. Brighton gets life from the sea and its proximity to London. At Bath the waters are soporific, and the fashionable world seems quite forgotten.

After you have studied the Roman remains, and thought enough about the CÆSARS and what brought them here and sent them away again, the great object of wonderment is the waters. You look down from a window in the Pump-room on a bath fifty by sixty feet, and four feet deep, in the centre of which the water boils up like a great cauldron, smoking hot. Here during the reign of Beau NASH, King of Bath, ladies and gentlemen used to bathe together in full dress, sitting up to their chins on the stone benches, or gliding about and paying their compliments to each other. At present the baths are chiefly taken in the private rooms, though the great swimming baths are open on alternate days for ladies and gentlemen. In these Democratic days there is no Beau NASH to rule the fashionable world, no master of ceremonies to introduce Englishmen to each other and set an example of civility—the glory of Bath has departed.

In an alcove of the Pump-room stands a middle-aged Hebe, ready to give you a taste of the water as it falls steaming from a pretty marble fountain. It is transparent, though it leaves a film of iron stain upon the glass, and it is as tasteless as any hot water I remember. With a few lumps of sugar, a bit of lemon peel, and one or two other slight additions, I should think it would be very agreeable. I hope those fine fellows, the Romans, had something to flavor it with. Besides the iron, chemistry detects some salts of soda and magnesia, but in minute quantities, and all the better for that. There seems no doubt that in the natural mineral waters a little medicine goes a great way; and these waters are undoubtedly good for gout, rheumatism, paralysis, liver and kidney complaints, and especially for female diseases, and scorbutic affections.

The good faith in the utility of this great hot fountain, flowing forever from its mysterious depths, is shown not only in its having been for centuries the resort of invalids, but by the establishment of free hospitals for the poor who come here to be treated, especially for skin diseases, from all parts of the Kingdom. The prices of the baths that are paid for are on the most reasonable scale, and all the arrangements are of a liberal character. The public parks and gardens, for walks and drives, are very handsome and extensive. There are large assembly rooms for balls and concerts, and the theatre is one of the finest in the provincial towns of England.

We are pretty well off for music here, for which Bath has long been famous. Three days in the week an excellent band plays at the Pump-room. They give us classical and popular music in fair proportions—selections from VERDI or ROSSINI, HAYDEN, MOZART, and BEETHOVEN. Playing together year after year, with a leader to keep them up to their work, they do very well; but if the audience were not too lazy, or too supercilious to applaud, they would play all the better. I detest these cold, undemonstrative ways of treating artists in England. They seem to say, "I have paid you, rascals; do you expect me to applaud? You may be thankful that I condescend to listen." Of course, the artist, of whatever kind, must be paid; but one burst of hearty applause is worth more to him than all the pounds sterling. But the Pump-room Band at Bath plays to please itself, and plays delightfully; and though composed of not more than fifteen members, can turn out five good soloists, and produce the highest gems of classic music. Like everything here, the price of admission is nominal—sixpence a single ordinary concert, a shilling for the extra high art and high fashion ones on Saturdays, and five shillings for the entire season of both sorts.

Private society in Bath may be delightful, but in public it seems dull and drowsy to a degree. But that is the case everywhere in England unless you go high enough, or low enough, or far enough into Bohemia to escape the stiffness and stupidity of the great middle class of Philistines. It is this that petrifies every English fashionable resort, and drives Englishmen to France, Germany, Italy, anywhere out of their own respectable, dull, stupid, foggy island. Yes, Bath is dingy and dull, sudorific and soporific, given up to gout and gravity—and you wish the Romans back again, for they had some *go* to them. Still, if one wanted a very quiet place, with good libraries and reading-rooms, pleasant walks and plenty of warm bathing of the most salubrious sort; in short, if an elderly man wished to make a quiet and pleasant descent of the hill of life, with flowers and music, and such genial society as he could gather about him, he might do much worse than to—"go to Bath." But he must have money—a fixed income if possible from the national funds. As the guide book eloquently remarks: "To easy opulence alone, and to those who have come to visit its healthful springs, does it owe its present elegance and flourishing condition. Of all places in the Kingdom, Bath is best fitted for the retirement of individuals with independent incomes, whether small or large. For those past the meridian of life, its quietness, beautiful neighborhood and warmth of climate particularly recommend it. Its entertainments are regulated with decorum and exactitude; its markets are cheap; its buildings splendid, yet reasonable in rent to the occupant. Trade in Bath consists principally in the sale of articles connected with the refinements rather than the necessities of life." There are, however, the needed quantity of butchers, bakers and greengrocers.

Like every English pleasure town Bath is well supplied with churches and chapels. The Abbey Church is the central one, and close by the hot Springs—a near neighbor to the Pump-room. It is a fantastic specimen of the debased Gothic of the sixteenth century, all windows—there are fifty-two of them, many very large—and so known as the "Lantern of England." The interior is crammed and disfigured with the marble monuments of nobodies in the worst style of the art of the last century, which did so much to make the grandeur of Westminster Abbey ridiculous. The most conspicuous external ornament of this skeleton Abbey is a representation of Jacob's ladder covering nearly the whole of the east end. For the sake of symmetry the architect and sculptors have made two ladders, one on each side of the principal door or window, on which the angels are ascending and descending—but there was a difficulty. How was the spectator to know which angels were going up and which coming down? This has been overcome in a very ingenious manner, for the descending angels are represented with their heels upward, coming down headfirst. The attitudes are rather grotesque, but there can be no mistake in the action. I have called this a Jacob's ladder, but on referring to the guide-book I find that it represents a dream of Bishop KING, and that the angels came down the ladder heels over head to tell him to finish this church, which the outbreak of the Reformation and the general scramble for ecclesiastical property had interrupted. There is some good statuary in this church by CHANTREY and FLAXMAN, but the greater part is trashy enough. As my eloquent guide-book says: "This church is filled with inscriptions, the records of human vanity, most of them of little value. Some there are, over whose dust (*whose* dust?) the literary man may find grateful recollections revive, and the good drop a tear; but of nearly five hundred mortuary records scarcely a dozen are worthy of a place in the note-book or album."

The prettiest monument here is a small chapel, built before the Reformation—"a stone screen of two sub-arches, rising from a basement ornamented with quatrefoils in panels, and separated by octangular buttresses in compartments. Both externally and internally the whole is richly adorned and elegantly pierced. The spandrels are composed of beautifully-wrought foliage, in which a 'bird' is frequently introduced. The roof consists of four divisions of fan-shaped tracery, diverging from the sides and spreading over the surface." The amateur of Gothic architecture will see what a gem it was; now let Mr. DAVIS, a local architect who did his best to restore it, tell us how it was treated by the enlightened successors of those architects of the dark ages, by whom it was built. "This oratory," says Mr. DAVIS, "is almost coeval with the Abbey in which it stands. The first stone was laid about 1515, by Prior WILLIAM BIRDE, under whom the design was for some time diligently prosecuted. When nearly completed, its progress was interrupted, (probably from the ecclesiastical reforms of that period,) and the structure still affords unquestionable evidence of the abruptness with which the work was abandoned. Remarkable alike for its purity and richness of decoration, it was fated to experience the same neglect to which all gothic architecture was so long exposed. For three centuries it was left to the mercy of the parish officers; its front defaced by monuments, the lower compartments of its windows blocked up, while those parts permitted to remain exposed were washed and unwashed with coats of different hues, until all the sharpness of the carved work was lost, and much of the delicate tracery obliterated."

Bath is desperately low church—dreadfully evangelical, as one might expect of a place so dingy and dull and dowagery. There is not a Ritualist Church in the place, which is something remarkable, and shows what a sleepy hollow it is. I commend it to Father IGNATIUS. There is, however, a large and very handsome Roman Catholic Chapel, and its new spire, light, lofty and of exquisite proportions, is one of the prettiest objects in the place.

The first Anglican proprietary chapel in England, was built at Bath in 1735. Another, called the Octagon Chapel, was built in 1767. The guide book says: "The interior possesses every accommodation of ease and refinement of luxury, adapted to the tastes of its congregation, which generally consists of the *élite* of the city." I have heard it said that people cannot go to heaven on flowery beds of ease," but the *élite* of Bath mean to try for it. They ride first-class, or else they don't travel.

I am not so sorry there are no Ritualists in Bath as I should have been, if they were not, just now, in such bad humor. They are angry at the Queen for raising Dr. TAIT to the Primacy, and for sending them a violent Evangelical as Bishop of London. They are abusing Mr. DISRAELI for yielding to the Queen in these appointments, and for resigning, instead of fighting to the last against the Radicals. They scold the Pope, and are exceedingly mad against every Anglican who goes over to Rome, before they are ready to go also, as they have long threatened to do in certain contingencies. The most distinguished of the recent converts is the Hon. COLIN LINDSEY, late President of the Church University. He was for union, and couldn't wait for the slow coaches, and so went to Father NEWMAN, at the Oratory, near Birmingham, and made his recantation and submission. Some officious friend hastened to deny the first report by telegraph, but the particulars are published in the Catholic *Register*. When such a leader goes over it creates more panic than the desertion of whole regiments of ordinary converts; and it is no wonder that my clever *Church Times* is very unhappy. Mr. DISRAELI, it says, "has converted his minority into a fugitive rabble; lowered his colors without firing a gun; has done more than we conceived was in the power of any Minister to alienate the support and sympathy of Catholics—(Ritualists,) has killed the old, and one would have thought immortal, alliance between the Church and the Conservative Party; has made a fiasco both in church matters and State affairs, and Mr. GLADSTONE can hardly do worse." Of course Protestantism catches it, as it always does. It is "a compact of lies, misrepresentations and mistakes; it has everywhere failed; every one with the smallest pretensions to culture or intellectual acuteness, has grown ashamed of it; it has made half Europe infidel, and has not converted the heathen." Then they turn upon the Pope, and declare that secession of Ritualists to Rome would be bad for both England and Rome. It would leave England simply Protestant, and prevent the reform which Rome needs as much as England. "All that remains to her is breaking away now from the stupid bigotry of the ultramontanes. Why should we put another scorpion into the despotic and blundering head of Rehoboam?" In short you must be an Anglican Ritualist, and nothing else will answer. Anything else might not be English.

On the whole, I do not wonder that Bath is faithful to the ideas, the architecture and the orthodoxy of the age of Queen ANNE and the Georges. It looks it. Drive through it and you could not tell it from any old-fashioned part of the metropolis. But for the great stream of hot water boiling up so many hundred hogsheads a day, you might as well be at Hanover-square. As it is, you get your *Times* an hour later, and take your music decorously at the pump room instead of indecorously at the Argyle Rooms or the Alhambra.

In some respects, towns like Bath and Bristol have advantages over the finest districts or suburbs of London. They have a compactness, completeness and self-sufficiency not to be found in the metropolis. What you have is close at hand. Your friends are all about you. It is but a step to the library, reading-room, assembly room, theatre, bata. Whatever you have is so convenient. In the metropolis the institutions are widely scattered and miles away from the great masses of population. You live at Chelsea, for example, and want to consult a book at the British Museum, or see a picture at South Kensington, or the cattle show at Islington, or a burlesque at the new Queen's Theatre, or a comedy at the Prince of Wales'. It is an hour or two hours' journey anywhere. Your friends, on whom you would like to drop in for a half hour's chat, are from five to fifteen miles distance. The Court Guide covers at least thirty square miles of aristocratic and genteel residences. Certainly, in these respects it is better at Bath. And if you take four or five busy streets from London, Bath is not duller—and it has a life of its own, not very lively, but still life.

MONADNOCK.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

The Bankrupt Law.

To the Editor of the New-York Times:

Will you favor a constant reader of your paper with the opportunity to make a few suggestions with regard to the National Bankrupt act.

Your correspondent is surprised that so little has been said publicly about this measure, now approaching another crisis in its existence, and which is a measure of such profound importance.

On the 1st of January next the voluntary side of the act will become, in effect, nugatory, and will be practically changed from a relief to the debtor into a stern instrument of the creditor.

Now, should the benevolent side of the act be extended? I believe it certainly should with modifications. Its general principles are excellent; but in details of practice it is very lame. Too much work is thrown upon the District Judge; he signs too many unimportant papers; every trifling question may be certified to him. This must render practice in sparsely-settled districts well nigh impossible. All these things, except very few, should be left, in the first instance, to the Registers. These latter are at present so trussed and skewered by the restrictions of the act as to leave them but the shadow of authority.

Then in that provision of the thirty-ninth article declaring that any person "who, being a banker, merchant or trader, *has fraudulently stopped or suspended, and not resumed payment of his commercial paper within a period of fourteen days*, shall be deemed to have committed an act of bankruptcy. The words underscored, as they stand, are mere unmeaning nonsense, and have been interpreted in directly opposite ways by several District Courts. This should undoubtedly be amended so as to afford some meaning.

But the great and most embarrassing difficulty connected with the act remains to be spoken. It is hard to say, but yet is must be said. It costs too much; $15 to be paid the clerk on filing the petition; $50 to be deposited at the same time; from $30 to $100 to be paid to the Marshal, and from $50 to $100 more to the Register. All this in a case where there is no opposition and no assets. Why, the richest suitor in a case at law, where a large recovery was hoped for, might easily grumble at such disbursements, and a solicitor's bill besides; while to the poor bankrupt, whose plea is that he has nothing, and who can hope for nothing except liberty to begin life anew, they must seem tremendous. A remarkable peculiarity of the act is the solicitude displayed to secure for the officials who execute its provisions, a handsome remuneration for their services; its title might have been added to with profit, thus: "An Act to establish a uniform system of bankruptcy throughout the United States, and to secure to our well-beloved clerks and marshals their proper income from the rascally bankrupts."

It would seem the framers of the act, like many other philanthropists, although looking beyond the prejudice of their age, could not altogether free themselves from its influence—a fear possessed them that the credulous and unsuspecting clerks and marshals would stand no chance in their contacts with shrewd bankrupts, who had by long experience learned how not to pay; hence, in the act is put one rule of conduct toward officials—(which might in other terms have been called a golden rule,)—payment always in advance. The Supreme Court has warmly seconded this kindly purpose by its twenty-ninth rule.

Perhaps, rather, it was meant to teach the bankrupts to leave their former shiftless habits and practice prompt and ample payment in their new career. Whatever the motive, the officials thrive by it. It may be severely kind to bankrupts, but it is hard to the creditor who pursues his dishonest debtor, and finds at every turn a barrier to his progress, where admittance must be well paid for. It is hard to see why Marshals should be paid in advance rather than Sheriffs—and Sheriffs don't starve.

Yet this is the tendency where statute law—the law of paid office-holders—supplants the common law, that drew its being from the energies, sentiments and habits of the people.

Yours respectfully, BREVIS-MINOR.

Specie Payments—Example of England.

To the Editor of the New-York Times:

England's financiers were so thoroughly mired during 1863 to '66 in all speculations upon our money matters, that we perhaps now neglect some useful experiences of hers, that should guide us in dealing with Senator MORTON'S bill and the question of specie payments. Some four or five hundred columns of Hansard were required to report the debates on the scheme under which the Bank of England renewed gold payments in May, 1821, and they contain a great deal of information that Mr. MORTON has not thought worth his attention

The New-York Times.

NEW-YORK, SUNDAY, DEC. 27, 1868.

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To Advertisers.

Advertisers in the TIMES are requested to bring in their notices at as early an hour in the day as possible. If received after 8½ o'clock, it will be impossible to classify them under their proper heads.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

EUROPE.

The latest telegrams regarding "The Eastern Question" state that the Grecian Chamber has voted the money asked for by the Government, and granted it full power to raise more if needed, and to make extraordinary levies of men for the army and navy. The Turkish Government have put two ships-of-war on the Coast of Cerego, to prevent the departure of Greek volunteers for Crete. The Paris *Gaulois* (newspaper,) says that the United States Government has been asked by Russia to take part in the difficulty.

The nomination of the son of the Duke of Montpensier for KING of Spain under a Regency, is advocated by one class in Madrid. But the Duke has published a manifesto announcing his Liberal views.

A deputation of London artisans, who are desirous of founding a colony in Nebraska, had an interview with Minister JOHNSON on Christmas Day. He encouraged their project.

GENERAL.

Late intelligence from Mexico is received by the Cuba cable. Gen. ROSECRANS arrived at the capital on the 2d of December. By a Grand Jury organized by Congress, MEJIA had been found "not guilty," and the case of ROMERO had not been decided. Two thousand laborers were at work constructing the Vera Cruz Railroad. Gen. ZURIOGA was operating against ESCOBEDO, and Gen. CANTO had been sent to Durango. Naval schools were to be at once established at Campeche and Mazadan. The financial and commercial condition of the Republic was critical.

It is reported by the cable that the Brazilian iron-clads attacked the Paraguayan stronghold at Villeta, after the failure of the Allies to carry it, but with no success.

Gen. ROUSSEAU has sent Inspector-General AYRES, of his staff, to the disturbed portion of Arkansas, to examine into the condition of affairs and report thereon. A dispatch from Little Rock states that nearly all the militia are to be withdrawn from Louisburg, and the citizens allowed to form a company among themselves. Gens. BABCOCK and PORTER, of Gen. GRANT's staff, left for Washington on Friday evening.

In the Hill murder case at Philadelphia yesterday, Mr. PRATT, of the counsel for the defence, asked the jury to be patient, and not to form a judgment until the case was at an end. The defence would prove that the wounds on Mrs. HILL's head could not have been inflicted with a poker; that JOSEPH GILBERT was not to be believed; and, further, that the Commonwealth was mistaken when it asserted that no one was in the house except the prisoner; that Mrs. HILL had frequently said that the house was for her children; and, further, that the prisoner was not pecuniarily embarrassed.

Five store-houses, near Ottawa, Canada, were burned Friday night. They contained a large quantity of matches, sulphur and 5,000 bushels of oats, all of which were consumed. The loss is estimated at $20,000. The discount on American invoices for the week is 26 per cent.

The first and second mates of the ship *Santee*, who have been on trial for several days in San Francisco, for inhuman treatment of the apprentice boys, during a voyage from New-York, were sentenced, on Friday, to the State Prison—the first for two years, and the second for one year.

A dispatch from San Francisco reports another rich "strike" in the White Pine district of Nevada, equal, if not superior, to the famous Eberhardt mine. One of the mines, it is said, yields at the rate of $1,500 per ton.

SIDNEY M. BARNES has served notice upon G. M. ADAMS of his intention to contest his right to the seat in the Forty-first Congress for the Eighth District of Kentucky.

On Thursday night a powder-mill in Westfield, Mass., owned by M. W. PERKINS, was destroyed by an explosion and fire. The loss is estimated at about $15,000.

In the Chicago Courts for the year just closing 176 husbands and 284 wives have applied for divorce, and 114 of the former and 227 of the latter succeeded in getting "true bills."

A serious fire occurred in Lynn, Mass., yesterday. It broke out in Lyceum Hall, and before it was extinguished several buildings, including the Post Office, were destroyed. The loss is estimated at about $50,000. As several shoe manufactories were destroyed, many people, about 600, are thrown out of employment.

A terrible tragedy occurred in Georgia on Thursday night. One GABRIEL MARTIN and his two maiden sisters, living in a small town in Columbia County, were murdered and robbed, and their house burned to the ground. No arrests have yet been reported.

The latest advices from Hayti report that Jacmel still continues besieged. The garrison repulsed the Piquets on the 9th inst. In the engagement the loss was heavy on both sides. SALNAVE's men-of-war were cruising along the coast.

The detectives have arrested JAMES C. LILLIES and EDWARD RUTH, two young men said to have been in prison for crime, on suspicion of having been concerned in the recent murder of FAULKNER, the Malden (Mass.) watchman. The murder has caused about as much commotion in the town as the famous Green murder.

A large cloth mill in Warwick, R. I., was entirely destroyed by fire early on Christmas morning. The loss is estimated at about $60,000, and is covered by insurance, which is divided among the following offices: The Boston Manufacturers Mutual Company, $20,000; the Worcester Mutual, $25,000; the Hope and Gerard Companies, of New-York, $5,000 each, and several Providence offices. The mill was owned by RICHARD G. HOWARD, and run by Gen. JAS. WATERHOUSE.

A call has been issued for a Convention, to be held at Peoria on Dec. 30, of the friends of the Illinois River improvement. The object of the Convention is to take action to have this subject brought before the Legislature at its next session.

At the Supreme Court, Chambers, yesterday, before Judge CARDOZO, Mr. FIELD replied to defendants' application to reopen and discharge the order appointing a receiver in the case of AUGUST BELMONT et al. vs. The Erie Railway Company et al. The arguments of counsel have closed, and the Court has reserved its decision.

A reception took place yesterday at the Union Home and School for Soldiers' and Sailors' Orphans, on the occasion of a removal of the building from Deposit in this State. Admiral FARRAGUT was present and addressed the children briefly.

The Coshocton (Ohio) *Democrat* says that JAMES M. SELLS, Sheriff of Coshocton county, disappeared on Sunday night, the 6th of this month, since which time nothing is known of his whereabouts. This was only a few days after the adjournment of the Court, and large sums of money were known to be in the hands of the Sheriff, from cases settled at the recent and former terms of Court, which was to be handed over to parties to which it belonged, and which it appears SELLS did not do. That he is a defaulter to the amount of several thousand dollars is now definitely ascertained, and that he has feloniously absconded with a large amount of money, there can be no doubt. The amount of his defalcation cannot be less than $7,000, and by some is estimated to be $10,000. This will have to be met by his securities, the burden of which, owing to the pecuniary circumstances of his bondsmen, as we are informed, will fall for the most part on two or three individuals.

League Island, Our New Naval Station.

Even as SHERMAN gave Savannah, four years ago, as a "Christmas gift to the nation," so Philadelphia, this holiday season, presents her Christmas gift to the country in the form of a deed of League Island. The difference is that, whereas Savannah had for a long time previous been struggling *against* being made a present of, League Island has been struggling still longer just the other way. Nothing, in fact, surpasses the profuse and pressing generosity of Philadelphia in this matter; she urged the gift repeatedly on Congress, and often unsuccessfully, for Congress viewed it with peculiar suspicion. Seldom, indeed, is a donee of real estate more coy and reluctant. It seemed to regard the gift as the Trojans did the "horse" of classic memory. We dislike, having now received and accepted our gift-horse, to look it in the mouth; still less do we like to continue this present metaphor, and hint that we too shall be quite as likely to get into trouble from our Philadelphian horse as the Dardanian heroes from their Grecian steed.

But, if we may not courteously "call it horse," we feel impelled, in justice, to regard League Island as somewhat of an *elephant*—an elephant that we have (not to say, had forced upon us,) drawn in a raffle; and now, having secured our prize, the question is, in brief, "What shall we do with it?"

To this query Secretary WELLES, in his letter of Dec. 23, confidently replies that the thing for Congress to do is to "make the necessary appropriation for such preliminary survey as may be necessary for a national naval establishment that will in time be complete in all respects, and unsurpassed for the purpose intended." Here then we have the answer to the great question in one word—and that a most familiar one—*appropriation*. So much, perhaps, we might have anticipated; but *how much* appropriation is needed the Secretary does not suggest. On that very important point we are left to our own imaginings.

However, even on this head, we are not without information, such as it is! Secretary WELLES tells us that this "appropriation" is needed for a "preliminary survey." Now, it would probably strike the reader that a "preliminary survey" is naturally in order *before* the acceptance of the island—that the island should not be taken on the pig-in-a-poke principle; and hence some persons may be surprised at hearing from Mr. WELLES that even the "preliminary survey" is yet to be made. But the truth is that *many* preliminary surveys have already been made. Two, for example, were made in different years, by highly distinguished and competent engineers, the first in 1862, the second in 1867. The first Board was composed of such judges as Rear-Admiral STRINGHAM and Prof. BACHE; the second of such experts as Rear-Admiral DAVIS, Gen. HUMPHREYS, Commodore ALDEN, Messrs. J. W. KING and HILGARD.

Now, there was this very remarkable and curious difference between these two boards of experts, that the Board of 1862 condemned the proposed use of League Island in the most unqualified and the strongest conceivable language, while the Board of 1867, if less strongly, yet no less unanimously, recommended its acceptance for the very purposes for which its predecessors found it unfit. There was also this remarkable and curious difference in Congressional opinion on the subject, that, whereas the House Committee on Naval Affairs, in 1864, after a careful personal examination, pronounced League Island utterly unfit for its destined uses, the Congress of 1867, after much pressure, concluded to take League Island, with the back-channel, marsh and creek thereto appertaining, provided a board of officers, to be appointed by the President, should recommend it. This Board agreed with the one of 1867, and disagreed with the one of 1862 and with the Committee of 1864—and it is by virtue of this act of Feb. 18, 1867, that we now have our Christmas gift, as has been said, from Philadelphia.

Clearly, authorities conflict on the advantages of League Island as a naval station; and who, of us common people, shall decide? We observe that Mr. WELLES thoughtfully and magnanimously says that "it is due to the late Prof. BACHE to say that he first drew the attention of the Department to the advantages of League Island." It is, perhaps, also due to the lamented BACHE to remark that he was a member of the Board of 1862, which, in the most vigorous terms,—we might almost say sarcastic, if they were not rather, scientific,—condemned the whole League Island project as impracticable, or else enormously expensive.

Indeed, as Mr. WELLES felicitates the country and Philadelphia, particularly the latter, on this happy transfer (which one accomplished Philadelphia journalist pronounced to be only less remarkable than the acquisition of Russian America,) we may cite his own opinion of 1863, when, in his annual report, he declared that to make League Island fit for its purpose would require "no inconsiderable expenditure." A somewhat more explicit and less diplomatic conclusion arrived at by the House Committee of 1864, was that, in the opinion of "competent engineers," whom they had consulted during their careful investigation, it would take *eight or ten years* to fill in the island, and so render it fit for an iron-clad station. We shall not ask what will become of the iron-clads in the mean time, (though they will probably be entirely ruined,) but we shall suggest the propriety of Congress making the "necessary appropriation forthwith.

And let it be a good swinging one. The borings of the Board of 1862, (that of Admiral STRINGHAM and Prof. BACHE,) showed that the "island" was chiefly a "reclaimed marsh," with "a depth of mud and fine sand varying from twenty-five to sixty feet in depth," and that, to be safe from high tides, it required a "filling of from nine to ten feet over its whole area." The wharf front required, *in addition* to the enormous labor here anticipated, is, according to the same authority, an affair of a mile in length, 481 feet (average) in width, and nineteen feet in depth. Commodore STRIBLING, in fact, described the island briefly as a "mud-flat." However, our purpose is not to revive an old controversy, but merely to say that we must make up our minds to pay pretty dearly for this free whistle. And the special point that we would urge is this: that when Congress has ordered the "preliminary survey," as it should, and that promptly, that it thereafter make no appropriation until a *complete plan*, drawn up by most competent and trustworthy engineers, is presented, for turning League Island to its proposed use, together with a frank and outside estimate of the *total* expense. No matter what the figures are, let us have them, and look squarely at them; but not dribble half-million appropriations out for successive years, till the sum alarms us. What will it cost, and what will it come to?

Three Female Poisoners—Marriage and Society in France.

Madame SALVAGO, Madame GABRIEL and Madame VILLE, have just been condemned at Marseilles, for poisoning Mons. SALVAGO, Mons. GABRIEL and Mons. VILLE.

Even French life could furnish but few social revelations involving more frightful elements than those which have been brought to light in the trial of these three women,—which has been fully reported in our last two issues. Intrigue, sorcery and secret poisoning were the main features; but they were complicated with an amount of baseness and cunning, superstition and ignorance, marital falsity, feminine lust and social depravity, that might well startle those who are responsible for the morals of French society.

These three murderesses did not belong to the lowest orders of the community. They did not belong to the criminal classes, nor to the class of female outcasts. They had their place among the respectable people of Marseilles; and even when before the Court, on trial for their lives, they were finely dressed, and bore themselves in a manner that was highly pleasing to the reporters.

Madame VILLE, it appeared on the trial, had been married twenty years, and was the mother of two daughters. She had a husband, and, according to the custom of the place, she also had *lovers*,—though it did not exactly appear how many, and she would only confess to two. In order that she might have no interruption in the enjoyment of her lovers, she set to work to get rid of her husband. A sorceress was consulted; and this sorceress quickly furnished a small phial of yellow liquid, which was guaranteed as sure to bewitch the husband out of his life. It was administered in his chocolate for five months, and at last it did its work. She then proposed to her favorite lover to poison *his* wife in the same magical way, and, after telling how she had taken off her husband, said that it was a common thing, that every woman poisoned her husband, and that nothing was more simple. But he got panic-struck, and it was through his agency that the whole plot and all the poisonings were finally brought to light and law.

The case of another of the poisoners, Madame GABRIEL, as it appeared on the trial, was very similar to the preceding. She had got for a husband a man in easy circumstances, whom she pronounced a "good man." But, according to the custom of the place, she also procured a supply of lovers soon after marriage,—two she confessed, but three turned up in Court, and the Judge said she was credited with five or six,—one of whom she had seduced from the path of virtue with the greatest difficulty. She began to doubt the fidelity of one of her lovers, and accordingly consulted a sorcerer, who told her that her lover was fonder of her than her husband was, and offered to furnish a powder which would soon *bewitch* the husband to death. She consulted her cousin, who advised her to accept the offer; and in order to prevent the thing being discovered, she advised her to burn a wax candle to the Virgin Mary, and her cousin took it herself to the church. She then consulted her mother about the project, and her mother promptly encouraged her to poison her husband, adding that she was herself decided to poison hers. The poison was then procured from the sorcerer, and in nine days Mons. GABRIEL was dead.

The case of the third of the poisoners on trial, Madame SALVAGO, was somewhat analogous to the two just recited, though certain palliating circumstances were urged in her behalf. She had been married for twelve years; but shortly after marriage she got on ill terms with her husband. She consulted the same sorceress as was successful in the case first alluded to; and the sorceress promptly offered to relieve her of her husband. But the sorceress sent to the house another woman, who, after making the sign of the holy cross on the stomach of her sick daughter, gave Madame SALVAGO a phial of greenish liquid for the benefit of her husband. She began administering it; and then, having kindly sent for two physicians to attend him, continued administering it,—the result of which was that she was rid of her husband in twenty days.

It was through the weakness of a young man that these amazing revelations—which do not seem to have greatly amazed or horrified Marseilles—were made. When Madame VILLE, after taking off her husband, proposed to one of her lovers to relieve him of his wife, he got frightened. He gave information to the authorities of her poisoning her husband, and she herself furnished the information of the poisoning by the other two women. All three made confession of their guilt, and treated the matter as of no great concern. Two of them were condemned to hard labor for life, and one for twenty years. The prosecuting attorney demanded the execution of the sorcerer or sorceress, who had incited the poisonings and furnished the means for them; but they also were condemned to hard labor for life.

The question arises in everybody's mind, on the discovery of such a series of poisonings as these, how much of this sort of thing is carried on *undiscovered?* In one of the cases—that of Madame GABRIEL—it turned out that the woman's cousin and her mother were privy to her conduct; and both of them not only encouraged the poisoning, but the mother had a job of the same kind on hand herself. In the case of Madame VILLE, it turned out that she was cognizant of two other poisoners beside herself, and she said that poisoning was a common thing. The sorcerer, or "spiritualist" as he called himself, carried on the business as though he was thoroughly experienced in it. The sorceress had her agents whom she employed in such a way as to turn suspicion from herself; and throughout all the revelations of the trial, we get an impression of a widespread practice of undiscovered poisoning, of which only a hint is furnished by the three cases that have come to light.

We do not propose to take advantage of the amazing revelations made on this trial to moralize upon the state of society in France, or to offer any suggestions, comparisons or applications, such as the reader will easily find for himself.

The Fish Commissioners' Convention.

From time to time we have called attention to the grave interest involved in the restoration of the inland fisheries of this country, and the great importance of seconding in a practical way the vigorous efforts now making in that direction. The constant agitation of this matter has at last produced one desirable result in the convocation for various purposes of the Fish Commissioners of the States which are actively engaged in the work. This Convention will meet in this City on Dec. 29. Among those who will be present will be Messrs. CHARLES G. ATKINS and N. W. FOSTER, Commissioners of Maine; H. A. BELLOWS and W. A. SANBORN, Commissioners of New-Hampshire; A. D. HAGAR and CHARLES BARRETT, Commissioners of Vermont; ALFRED R. FIELD and THEODORE LYMAN, Commissioners of Massachusetts; H. WOODWARD and JAMES RANKIN, Commissioners of Connecticut; JAMES WORRALL, Commissioner of Pennsylvania, and SETH GREEN, ROBERT B. ROOSEVELT and HORATIO SEYMOUR, Commissioners of New-York. Numerous private fish farmers and others interested in the practice and exposition of the art of fish farming will also be in attendance.

The primary purpose of the Convention is the exchange of views and the relation of experiences of the various members, and the arrangement of a definite and uniform plan of operations in the future. The necessity of united action and uniform legislation arises from the fact that many of the streams to be stocked flow through or are the boundary lines of the several States. If the Convention shall harmonize the action of the various Commissioners, it will not have met in vain, even should it fail to advance legislation. The legislation of the New-England States is now uniform; that of New-York, New-Jersey and Pennsylvania should at once be conformed to theirs. Then with the necessary appropriations for the construction of the fish-ways, and the proper legal restrictions of those fishermen who now abuse their privileges, there will be nothing to prevent the early restoration of our fisheries to the prosperity which they enjoyed less than half a century ago, "when twelve and fifteen pound salmon sold for a shilling each."

A correspondent in another column points out that ignorance among the fishermen and legislators is a great obstacle to the work of repairing the damage originally caused by the ignorance of those who allowed our rivers to be obstructed by dams, and defiled by being made the sewers for the reception of all manner of refuse poisonous to fish. He argues that it ought to be an object with the Convention to take steps to educate the people to an appreciation of the importance and necessity of this work. The suggestion is a practical one, which should not be forgotten. Our people do not yet understand that our fisheries are a great industrial and agricultural interest which we are abusing to utter exhaustion, while England, France, Germany, and even Canada, whose enterprise we are accustomed to ridicule, have, by the adoption of wise means, not only restored theirs, but regulated them so wisely that at the very time they are fishing their waters to the full extent of the demand, the fish are annually increasing in them by millions. While we continue to exhaust our streams for an inadequate supply of inferior fish, we are even now paying tribute to Canada for the superior fish of her protected waters. These facts should be practically set before the people in popular form; and it is this Convention of pisciculturists who ought to do it.

City Roads and Pavements.

Is the Parisian, the Macadam or the wooden pavement of this country to take the place of the rough stones in our highways? There can be little doubt that the humane tendencies of the age and its economies will soon succeed in expelling stone block pavements, of every form, from the principal streets of cities. These stones are now generally conceded to be cruel to animals, while the noise they occasion is always unpleasant, and too often painful. There is an irreclaimable barbarism in these kinds of roads, and a determination in Europe and in this country to get rid of them. The inquiry is, how?

In Paris a certain kind of stone is pulverized and mixed with cement and asphalt, making a composite between the hard-set particles of natural stone, and an elastic cohesion, the latter, however, being in minor degree. An unbroken surface, with suitable elasticity and rather unsatisfactory durability, is obtained. When worn away, it is readily replaced with a plastic layer, which quickly sets and is ready for use. The stone ingredient is a local production, which may or may not be readily procurable here, but, like the Macadam, the waste is rapid and expense great under heavy traffic.

The latter roadway, composed of stone broken in small pieces, made smooth and rigid by pressure and use, is seen in the driveways of the Central Park. It is very well adapted to light vehicles, although there are one or two very serious drawbacks. It is too hard and unyielding to the foot, and therefore injurious to horses; there is a lack of endurance under heavy traffic, and wherever used it requires constant attention and reparation. Certainly the Macadam could not be successfully applied to all, perhaps not to any of the important business highways of this City.

Thus we are led to a pavement where wooden blocks are the chief element in the composition, the wear coming on the end of the wood fibres, indurated and protected by coal-tar or other bituminous gum, in combination with sand or gravel. It must be admitted that the surface presented by these pavements when new, as seen in several of our streets, leaves hardly anything to be desired as to smoothness, with firmness of texture for sustaining the wheel, elasticity or softness, and sureness of hold for the foot, absence of noise, and facility for removing dirt and garbage. And these are the essential requirements for a city roadway. If durable, and adapted to temporary renewal and readjustment without injury or delay, so as to gain access to pipes and sewers, there is no near approach to its excellence by any other kind of pavement in use here, and nothing superior elsewhere. It would seem that if the want of adaptation to these temporary and fragmentary removals was the only difficulty, that some way could be devised to remedy it. There is, however, little doubt that one thing must be done more effectually than it has been: the wood must be subjected to processes for preventing decay, far more thorough than the thin coating of tar. There is no doubt that impregnation with the bitumen will secure this result, but this has been too imperfectly practiced, and there are said to be chemical processes more economical to secure preservation, that could precede this external application of tar.

With a strong wooden flooring prepared by known agencies to resist decay, which will sustain the blocks in position, the latter being also subjected to the preserving treatment, the exposed pores and fibers of the wood indurated with a composite of gum and sand, making an impervious coating, so that the whole structure, owing to the modes of preparation and fabrication will not be liable to disintegration from decay, or from expansion and contraction, there is no good reason to doubt, that a pavement can be made of wood even more durable than any composed of stone, unless the latter rests on concrete or masonry foundations.

Almost every person's experience will find something to confirm what is alleged to be demonstrated by actual trial, that such a prepared surface of wood has greater endurance in resisting the mechanical forces of street traffic than the hardest paving-stones. The wood handle of the shoemaker's pegging awl which splinters and frays under the blows of his hammer only after a long resistance, would, if this handle were granite, commence flecking and powdering at the first stroke. Here, where wood endures for weeks and months, stone would not last hours. Of course, there is a difference in the two cases, but then, the awl-handle shows an example where wood resists a much greater mechanical force, applied in a certain way, than stone can withstand.

The blows of iron-clad hoofs, and the grinding and crushing of wheels, are not unlike the pounding hammer. It is true, they do not break a stone in fragments like the heavy blows of a hammer; neither do they splinter and fray the fibers of the blocks, as the continuous application of the hammer would do. With the conditions, now believed to be practically attainable, of a fabric that will retain its form and position until the wood is worn out by the mechanical action of the traffic, this pavement will become one of the most important improvements of the age.

In reaching this result, two requirements seem paramount to any patented modes of putting the wood together;

1. The material throughout must be hermetically closed against moisture by an imperishable coating, or by chemical treatment be rendered durable as well as incapable of those extremes of expansion and contraction in wet and dry weather, which damages, and thus, irrespective of elemental decay, enables the mechanical forces to destroy.

2. The treatment of the exposed surface is not unsatisfactory, although, with so short an experience, it is likely to be improved. The composite coating is pressed down into the pores and around the fibres, preserving them in a measure from attrition, but, still more important, keeping them dry and hard—the essential conditions for wood to give its full and almost unsurpassed endurance under certain forms of force.

A New State in Europe.

A month ago an important historical event for Europe occurred which has scarcely attracted any attention here. On Nov. 15, Hungary was formally constituted as a separate Kingdom within the Austrian Empire, and the delegates of the Austrian Diet and the Hungarian Parliament met at Buda-Pesth to pronounce opinions on the foreign policy of the past year, and—what is of more importance—to decide on the Government expenditures for the coming year. The Empire of Austria is to be called henceforth the "Austro-Hungarian Monarchy," and the Emperor of Austria is now the "Apostolic King of Hungary," or he is "His Imperial and Apostolic Majesty."

To the distant observer the titles seem of little account, but they serve to indicate to official minds the real state of affairs—that "Duration" is at length truly established in Austria, and that Hungary is, in combination with the other Provinces, a self-governing State.

As one looks back twenty years and considers the course of events which has at length given Hungary her independence, every one must feel how impossible it is to foretell the particular means by which human progress is to be made. In 1848 and 1849 Hungary struck against Austrian oppression and for self-government, and through the overwhelming power of Russia and Austria combined, was utterly defeated and prostrated, and her condition made much worse than before. For nearly twenty years she has suffered an almost complete annihilation of national life. Her communal government has been destroyed, her freedom of religious worship invaded, her language almost forbidden, all parliamentary government till the last few years has been wiped away; her leaders and statesmen have been in exile, and the people have been ground down by taxes and exactions. The prostration of Hungary, and American slavery seemed, at one time, problems of evil, of which the human mind could predict no solution, and which were among the dark mysteries of Providence in this world.

The most of observers would have said that Hungary could only be delivered by another bloody struggle, and that America would be purified of her foul spot by the gradual progress of intelligence and humanity in a country so civilized. As if to confound philosophic predictions, our deliverance was brought about by blood and struggle, and Hungary's by the insensible and gradual influences of European progress. After having wasted her best blood and the strength of the land for independence in vain, she now after twenty years secures it without firing a shot or paying a florin.

Since 1848, the balance of power in Europe has vastly changed. The Crimean war—though it gained nothing, apparently, for England and France—destroyed the prestige of Russia in Europe, and damaged her resources, so that she has been without formidable influence since. Moreover, the tide of the age reached the Russian populations, and the great reform carried out in the act of emancipation absorbed all the energies of Russia within herself. She has ceased to be the protector of reaction, or the supporter in Europe of arbitrary power. France, till recently, had become the leading Power of Europe, and in the struggle with her in the Italian campaign, the power of the army and the court within Austria itself was humbled. Liberalism, too, was gradually penetrating the German Provinces of the Empire, and constantly struggling with the old imperial and despotic party. Finances continually ran on from worse to worse, and, with Hungary disaffected, Vienna liberal, Bohemia discontented, and only poor Tyrol loyal, the Government knew itself weak for any great foreign struggle. With wise forecast, they had already, some four years since, when Austria stood in her proudest position before the world, began the efforts for reform. It was evident to the able Austrian statesman at the helm that the financial condition of the Empire could never be sound until all disaffection was removed, and the reasonable demands of the various Provinces for more liberal institutions and guarantees were satisfied.

They accordingly began an administrative and religious reform. A separate Ministry was formed for Hungary, and efforts were made to restore her self-governing communes, (or "counties,") and to give her her proper share in the administration of Austria, and to summon again her ancient Parliament.

In the midst of these efforts came at length, somewhat before it was expected, the tremendous shock with North Germany. As some of the statesmen of Austria well knew, she was in no condition to withstand it. She was but a shell of discordant materials, which was crushed at once. Her Hungarian soldiers and subjects had no heart in the struggle, and were beaten without difficulty. Had the war lasted another week she would have lost Hungary forever. Bohemia felt no attachment to the Government which had never fulfilled the first duties of an Administration. The German Provinces were wavering, so that a few weeks more would have left nothing but fragments of the once haughty Austrian Empire. Peace was made just in time for her existence. With peace, of course, came the absolute necessity for the Government of setting its house in order. The great progress of the age must be allowed to move Austria. Parliamentary administration and free religious worship, and many other reforms, must at once be inaugurated, and, above all, Hungary must be established in its ancient position as a self-governing, independent, but integral, part of the Empire.

The Constitutional Party, under DEAK, have yielded to the concessions of Vienna. And though the "Left" has refused coöperation, the people generally are now united in accepting a Hungarian Monarchy under the Austrian Empire, such as was fairly inaugurated a month since in Buda-Pesth.

MISCELLANEOUS.

It appears from some of our Southern exchanges that some people in that region are still credulous enough to believe that the United States may perhaps be forced to pay the Confederate debt—the Richmond City Council appears to be among these. We were well aware that the "fools are not all dead yet;" but we have hitherto had the impression that this particular class of folly was confined to England and the hopeful Confederate bondholders.

There is lamentation among the lobbyists over the rumor that the "reticent" President elect has broken silence for the purpose of rebuking "the building of railroads by public money which can be built by private;" and still more generally against "all new enterprises tending to deplete the public treasury." We do not know, however, what the lobbyists can do, except to "grin and bear it." Enough electoral votes have already been cast for GRANT to elect him, and the 4th of March is at hand.

The last two issues of the TIMES contain a report of the trial of the Marseilles Poisoners, which reads curiously like some passages in a sensation story, so unlike is it to anything of the kind in an English or American Court. The great difference, as may have been perceived, is in the free talk of the accused with the Judge, in reply or explanation. With us, the lawyers would have all the conversation, in the formal old British manner. The French fashion, though it may strike us as odd, has much to recommend it. The truth is reached more simply and directly by that familiar investigation, while the formalism of our lawyers tends very much to screen evil-doers and baffle the ends of justice. The French way has a common-sense look with it, which contrasts favorably with the legal dodges and jugglery of other tribunals. LAW is less of a superstition among the French than among the Anglo-Saxons, and, in that, the former have a great advantage.

Mr. BURLINGAME and the other Chinese ambassadors have been, doubtless, deeply concerned to know that Sir RUTHERFORD ALCOCK has turned over the dispute about the murdered missionary in Yangchow to Admiral KEPPEL, who proceeded with a squadron of warships to Nankin, in order to force the Viceroy of that Province into some measure of redress. The authorities at Pekin showed no anxiety to interfere in the matter, and the broadsides may be probably brought to bear, as before, on another Chinese controversy. The imperialists don't want to see the foreigners swarming into their country, and will probably try to discourage them in a variety of ways, while the English in the East are determined to open the Celestial Empire as they would open an oyster. This is a question in which the United States will have a growing interest, scarcely less than that which attends the negotiation of Hon. REVERDY JOHNSON.

NAPOLEON III. labors in all things to make his Government necessary to the French people, and accustom them to look to him for more or less help, in the work of social progress. Among his many arrangements for this grand purpose, is the plan of sending agents into the agricultural districts, where the great strength of the Bonapartean dynasty reposes, to offer the farm-folk the necessary implements of industry, at first cost; and not these alone, but the credit which enables the people to get them. The latter have from three to five years to pay for them, and a longer time when it is found that they are industrious but cannot raise the money. This interference is a very paternal one; and, though it may have a certain centralized air of despotism, yet it is a very pardonable kind of despotism, as the world goes.

The tremendous explosive power of nitro-glycerine brought it into rapid fame, but its dangerous sensitiveness made it almost immediately notorious and dreaded. Its safer condition in the form of dynamite, the solid, granulated powder, rendered it less perilous, and that is coming into general use for mining purposes in Northern Europe. But the discovery lately made by a Mr. BROWN, of the English War Office Chemical Establishment, that gun-cotton, when exploded by the sudden concussion produced by a detonating fuse, develops even in the open air an explosive force equal to nitro-glycerine, will go far to replace those dangerous compounds by this lighter, less bulky, more safely transported agent. [illegible] not requiring to be confined, like gunpowder, to develop its enormous power, will do away with the dangerous operation of "hard tamping" or close packing into the drilled blast-holes for mining and engineering purposes; while the success of the experiments made in firing a long loose train of it upon the ground by means of a detonating fuse in the centre or at either end, producing uniformly destructive effects along the whole train, will make it an important engine of warfare. Thus one discovery leads to another.

We find, in *Galignani*, mention of a steam engine exhibited in the late Exposition which, on account of its saving about sixty per cent. of the fuel ordinarily used, attracted much attention, and particularly the attention of that inquisitive gentleman, the Emperor. The new engine employs, instead of water, which absorbs 606 units of heat in its vaporization, a solution of liquefied ammonia gas in water, which evaporates with an absorption of only 126 units; and which, moreover, affords a pressure of six atmospheres at 111 degrees centigrade, instead of the 160 degrees required by water alone. The saving of fuel in this is evidently something enormous.

The extensive use of wire rope in the construction of bridges, gives interest to a series of experiments lately made at the Havre Exhibition for testing its tensile strength. A piece of steel wire-rope four inches in circumference (the diameter being of course about one-third of that) upheld the immense weight of forty tons, and then slipped through the splice without breaking. A piece of iron wire-rope, 3¾ inches circumference, resisted the strain of thirty-five tons without breaking. A little iron wire-rope, only 2¼ inches circumference, broke at fourteen tons, its guaranteed breaking strain being but nine tons. These were all English rope and fairly beat all competitors, including the contractor to the French Navy. If all manufacturers make as honest work, wire rope is what Western men would call "a safe thing to *tie to!*"

At a late meeting of the Polytechnic Branch of the American Institute, Mr. STETSON made some very interesting remarks concerning the multitude of inventors and inventions in the matter of steam propulsion. In 1866, fifty patents were granted, involving, of course, separate contrivances; and the whole number of American patents upon propulsion are nearly *four hundred*. Propulsion is not a simple matter; it involves, besides the mere effective arrangement of mechanism, the principles of mechanical friction, inertia of the body to be moved, the laws of fluid matter, and many contingent forces. And although great advances have been made, paddle-wheels, screws, feathering paddles, and so on, one principle of action after another being developed, and one obstructing force after another being avoided, yet there are many short-sighted, useless inventions. If mechanics would not waste time, money, and effort in vain experiments, they must study the problem theoretically, scientifically, and with an intelligent comprehension of all its difficulties.

It would be curious to ascertain the origin of many things now common and familiar as household words. To find any trace of the man (or woman) who first thought of "putting the kettle to boil" would occasion as fervent blessings as those ejaculated by Sancho on "the man that invented sleep." And no doubt if we could find the starting point of many of our prized luxuries of life we should run them to earth in very strange places. The London *Chemical News*, speaking of ox-tail soup, which is now a favorite table luxury, says that in and about the year 1689, when London was sought as a refuge by many poor Protestant French exiles, the "butcher of the period" used to leave the tail attached to the hides which were sold to the tanners; and the poverty-stricken, starving French refugees bought these refuse tails for a mere nothing, in default of getting anything more like meat, and made soup of them. Its good quality soon became known, and is now universally appreciated.

TOWN TOPICS.

We see from experiments made in Scotland that the difficulty of using locomotive steamers on ordinary roads has been overcome by the application of vulcanized India-rubber to the wheel tires. The sharpest and roughest beds of broken stone are passed over with ease, long steep hills ascended and descended without difficulty, and the most abrupt turns made with perfect safety. We recollect seeing a few years ago a small locomotive steamer running up and down Broadway, but the jarring it was subjected to in passing over the rough pavement rendered its practical use evidently impossible. The difficulty in the way of using such steamers now appears to have been overcome. May we not hope that ere long we shall see dummy locomotives, with rubber-covered tires, taking the place of horses on our City railroads? Perhaps the problem of constructing an indestructible street pavement may be indirectly solved by this application of India-rubber to the wheels of our vehicles.

The public have not lost sight of the case of PATRICK KELLY, one of the challengers on the Republican side, who was shot at by a crowd of deputy-sheriffs at a polling-place in the Eighteenth Ward on last election-day. KELLY, it seems, had been once a member of the Sheriff's "ring," but, disliking his associates, joined the Republicans. For his heresy—"going back" upon his crowd—it was determined that his life should be forfeited, and on election night a bullet was put into him which keeps him still in a precarious condition at Bellevue Hospital. A man of somewhat notorious antecedents, known as DAN NOBLE, was arrested at the time of the attempted murder on the charge of having fired the shot, but on the *ante-mortem* examination of KELLY before Coroner FLYNN, that facile functionary, without authority of law, transferred NOBLE from the custody of the Police to that of the Sheriff, who, of course, released him. So the case stands. It is another instance of the manner in which justice is mal-administrated by those whose duty it is to enforce the law.

The part played by the Sheriff's officers in the late arrest of Mr. SAMUEL BOWLES calls forth letters without number from private individuals, giving instances of the extortion practiced at the Eldridge-street jail, and the corrupt practices of the Deputy Sheriffs in cases of replevin of property. We have no space to publish these letters. It would appear, however, that very few people who have had dealings with the Sheriff's subordinates, have escaped their clutches without suffering from their extortion or experiencing rude treatment at their hands. The remedy for this lies with the State Legislature. Let a law be passed more precisely defining the duties of the Sheriff and his assistants, and imposing a penalty for undue harshness in the performance of their functions.

This year the ball season promises to exceed anything in that line which has hitherto been attempted both in the number and splendor of the entertainments. Already the season is at its height, so far as the balls given nightly by private associations are concerned. But the great events of this sort, for which preparations are now in progress, will occur in January and February. These larger balls will be held at the Academy of Music and at Pike's Opera House, both of which establishments are well adapted for such a purpose. Among the most prominent of these entertainments will be the Charity Ball, the annual balls of the Fire Department, and the Seventh Regiment Ball.

partment, the Light Guard, the Americus Club, and the Lindsey Blues. The list of fancy dress balls is headed by those of the Liederkranz, the Arion, and the Purim Associations. We have only one word to say to the managers of these entertainments: Profit by past experience, and do not issue so many tickets as to defeat the object of the evening. For the past two or three years the crush usually has been so great on the floor as to make everybody uncomfortable and dancing an impossibility.

A correspondent calls attention to the fact that there is no outlet from Bleecker-street, on the north side of the street, between Broadway and the Bowery. Four streets lead up to Bleecker on the south side, but the travel must then turn to Broadway on the left or to the Bowery on the right in order to advance further. This is a great inconvenience, certainly. It might be overcome at no great expense by cutting one of the streets through to Lafayette-place—a distance of two short blocks. This would relieve both Broadway and the Bowery in a great measure of their surplus traffic. Property holders who would be especially benefited by this improvement will doubtless agitate the subject.

The melancholy youth who attempted to shoot himself dead a day or two since at noon in the City Hall Park, in full view of the passers by, but who only succeeded in perforating his overcoat, affords a striking illustration of the strength of the human imagination. He thought he had killed himself and fell prone upon the ground. Two policemen raised him, bore him tenderly to a carriage, and took him to the New York Hospital. All of the way thither he believed that he was mortally wounded, and never ceased for a moment piteously to bewail his rashness. It was only after a physician had examined him that his mind was disabused of its false impression. He then found the use of his feet and walked out of the hospital as well as any one. The incident is analogous to that of the old wood-chopper whose nether limbs were encassed in an undergarment of red flannel. His ax slipped and cut through his trowsers. Looking down he saw something red behind the rent, and at once thought he was seriously wounded. He thereupon fainted, and for a long time could not be convinced that his limb was unhurt. Imagination carries the mind to odd lengths sometimes.

The work of tearing down the Loew bridge remains in abeyance, and the mutilated structure, bereft of one of its stairways, and with its others barricaded by unsightly hoards, looks forlorn enough. Its original ugliness has been enhanced, and it has lost besides its single merit of being useful. Why is it left to disfigure Broadway and remind us of what might have been done for the relief of travel at that point if a proper sort of bridge had been erected? A substitute for the bridge has been suggested in the form of a tunnel, about ten feet deep, with stone or iron steps leading down to it from entrances at the places where the columns of the bridge now stand; the tunnel to be well lighted with gas and paved with flag-stones. The idea seems to be feasible, and the necessities of the case would be met by putting it into practice.

ITALY.

Parliament—Affairs in the South—The Frequency of Suicide—Italian Commerce—Personal.

From Our Own Correspondent.

FLORENCE, Friday, Dec. 18, 1868.

It is hardly an encouraging fact to make note of that, during the first week's session of Parliament, there were two days when it was impracticable to carry on business, as the legal number of Deputies did not come together. Action was taken upon a question which interests a large number of Italians whose allegiance has been confused by their connection with recent events. A resolution was passed unanimously by the Chamber giving full rights of citizenship in the Italian Kingdom to all Roman emigrants. It is a Government measure, and as such may be only a stroke of policy, more necessary now that blame for the failure of Roman schemes is fixed upon the Administration. In itself the act is generally regarded as one of simple justice. As an affirmation of national right it is an important manifestation, and must have a good effect.

The noisy denunciations of the act of the Papal Government, in taking the lives of Moati and Toguetti, continue in the newspapers. For a fortnight past it has been the leading theme. But some are beginning to see that less can be made of the opportunity than was hoped in the beginning. Italians of more moderate views now rejoice that Parliament did not commit the error of making the families of the unfortunate men the pensioners of the Government. To put a premium upon crime would be a dangerous principle to establish in the political education of this people. It is a great mistake, for an exclusively political object, to hold up as examples of pure patriotism men who were the paid agents to commit an extra-warlike act, such as that of the blowing up of the Serristori barrack.

AFFAIRS IN THE SOUTH.

From the south of the peninsula favorable accounts continue to come. The supremacy of law is assured, and a gradual improvement is to be hoped for. As in our own South, it is a struggle of civilization with barbarism. Brigandage does not lift its head with so much boldness, and if this savage animal is not quite hunted out, its power to excite alarm is much weakened. Roving bands are still at large, and cases of outrage continue to be reported; but less anxiety has been felt since the forces in pursuit have been so active. The plague is chronic, and seems to be inherent in the social constitution. The reform of sacerdotal abuses and political amelioration will cause this remnant of barbarism to disappear.

THE EASTERN QUESTION.

Events in the East are turning public attention in that direction. The Oriental question is ripening, although its final solution may still be far off. The dissolution of the Turkish Empire is admitted to be inevitable, and Austria not less than Russia is eager to have a share in the spoils of the perishing State. The support given to Turkey, for the most unworthy of motives, by France and England, is a scandal to modern civilization. It should be made to cease and will be made to cease by new combinations. The aspirations which inspire the Greeks may not be wholly unselfish, but they are certainly nobler than any principle by which their enemy is governed. If Turkey is resolved to break with the Helenic State, and war should ensue, it cannot be long before other Powers will take part in the controversy, and the question be settled according to just ideas.

SUICIDE.

Suicide is much more common here than might be expected, among so careless a people. I do not know the percentage for all Italy, but it must be greater than with us. The pistol and the pool are more commonly resorted to than liquid poisons and the fumes of charcoal. Love, loss of property, and domestic infelicity, are the common causes; but life is taken for the most trivial reasons, and by very young persons. Here in Florence we have just had three cases in a single day. A girl of 17 throws herself from the *Ponte Vecchio* because she is discharged from domestic service for some petty defection. The spectacle was a remarkable one. At least a thousand persons, mostly men, lined the quay and bridges, and with mute curiosity saw, for fifteen minutes, a human creature struggling in the water, and not a hand or foot was moved to save. A bark, bearing a policeman, arrived very leisurely, and fished the body from the bottom, and then an official physician pronounced life extinct, and another placman, in due course, rendered the verdict.

Another case was that of a young man, employed in the Government service, who blew out his brains in the Cascine, lately become rather a favorite place for suicides. He had written a dozen letters, eaten a meal at a *trattoria* near by, taken off a part of his clothes and folded them in newspapers, so that they might not be soiled with his blood, and inclosed a note requesting that these and the pistol might be given to the woman with whom he had been lodged. The reason given for his self-taking-off was that he had not been sufficiently affectionate and grateful to his parents. Thus one sees what are some of the motives for Italian suicide.

ITALIAN COMMERCE.

Some statistics lately published indicate the changes that have taken place in Italian commerce in the past few years. The imports from England into Italy in 1863 amounted to the gross sum of £6,038,000. In 1867 this was reduced to £4,865,000. The exports from Italy to England in 1863 were of the value of £2,782,000, and in 1867, £3,100,000.

By these figures it would appear that, so far as English interests are concerned, the free-trade system is not producing good results. There is a strong competition among Northern manufacturing countries to obtain the predominance in this market, but the country is now producing much for itself. Italy has enough cheap labor, and what is wanted is capital, raw material and skill. With revived energy these, in good time, will be supplied.

AMERICAN MACHINES.

The American sewing-machine has descended upon Italy, and it promises more good to the country than a papal benediction. I do not know how it is in other cities, but here in Florence the town is under a sewing-machine siege. Several enterprising agents in competition with each other muster their battalions, and the struggle goes on for the possession of the field. The public look on with interest, and the windows of the shops where the machines are in motion are darkened with spectators. A few of the machines have been used here for years, but to most Italians they are as great a novelty as at first. The people of this country have so little skill for mechanical invention, that the future industrial progress would be gloomy were not the improvements of other countries thrust upon this population.

PERSONAL.

Mr. Longfellow has been in Florence for a week past, and will leave in a few days for Rome, where most of the Winter will be passed. This is the first visit to Italy which our poet has made since 1838. A period of thirty years has made many changes even here, and while most pleasure is found in looking once more at the old monuments, which are much the same, there is a satisfaction also in seeing, in the new, so many evidences of social and political advancement.

The name of Mr. Longfellow is perhaps better known in Italy than that of any other American writer, except Prescott. But few of his poems have been translated, yet the frequent reference to them, and to the great literary acquisitions of the poet, have given to his name a conspicuous eminence among those of our men of letters.

Mr. Johnson's extraordinary conduct in England has caused much conversation down here. By Americans he has been voted the John Thomas or Jenkins of diplomats, and is fairly entitled to the plush and buttons. No one is surprised that Mr. Bright has said that the United States are still colonies of England; and there will be enough to believe it, if the agent who of all others should exhibit an imperial spirit is allowed to make a jack of himself. Our nation has undergone many severe trials, but none worse than the Johnson purgatory of the past two years.

The annual procession of Protestant pilgrims is now setting toward Rome. Florence at this season has few attractions, and a pause of a few days is all that travelers think it worth while to make on their Southern way.

ANGELICO.

THEATRICAL.

The Drama During Christmas Week in New-York and Elsewhere.

The Christmas performances, though not so crowdedly attended as those upon the recent Thanksgiving, were nevertheless largely patronized. The receipts at Niblo's fell but little short of $3,000 for the day and evening representations of "After Dark," while the amount received at the Olympic was $1,018 for the *matinée*, and nearly $1,800 for the evening. At Woods' Museum the receipts were a fraction over $4,000; and in this proportion the other places of amusement were patronized. The revenue returns for the month of November from all the theatres open in New-York City have been made, and indicate a large increase over the receipts for the month of October. For November the amounts stand thus:

Wood's Museum	$45,980	Pastor's Opera House	$9,445
French Theatre	35,000	Worrell Sisters	8,922
Olympic	31,276	San Francisco Mins.	8,695
Pike's Opera House	31,264	Kelly & Leon's	7,280
Niblo's	30,001	Bryants'	7,100
Wallack's	22,151	Lingard and company performed at the Academy of Music one night	1,129
New-York Circus	18,710		
Broadway	13,000		
Bowery	11,333		
Theatre Comique	11,147		

The company for Mr. Brougham's new theatre have been called together, and the opening of that place will occur (according to present intentions) on the 4th of January. Mr. Booth's theatre will scarcely open before Feb. 1. The date fixed for the opening of Messrs. Jarrett & Palmer's Tammany "Varieties" is the 28th; but the house will scarcely be ready before the 4th of January. The general admission to the place is to be 50 cents, and the seating capacity will be about 1,600. The iron arm chairs, similar to those at Niblo's, are to be used. The opening attraction is to include a new extravaganza by Mr. H. B. Famie, (an English author of dramas,) a "Punch and Judy" show, a burlesque on the railroad scene in "After Dark," &c. Maffit, a clown and pantomimist of Boston reputation, is to be one of the leading performers, in addition to the varieties troupe imported from the London music halls for the place. The orchestra is to be under the direction of Sig. Operti, and Mr. Oakey Hall has written an opening address for the entertainment. The house is to be supplied with large rooms to be devoted to conversation and smoking purposes; one of these will be used as a reading-room, where the latest telegraphic news will be found. Another room is fitted up as a restaurant, on an extensive scale, where everything that the market affords will be served up. The drop curtain is a representation of Lake Como. The proscenium pillars are flanked by a pair of bronze statues, supporting candelabra, representing a Gaul and a Pictish warrior.

Mr. C. W. Tayleure's connection with the Olympic Theatre as business manager, ceases on the 1st of January we understand. He is to be succeeded by Mr. Dan Symonds, for many years Mr. Jos. Jefferson's manager through his Australian, English and American engagements. On the 9th of January Mr. Tayleure goes to Europe to secure novelties for his season at Pike's Opera House. Mr. T.'s engagement at Pike's, the *Clipper* states, is for two years, and commences on Feb. 9. He intends opening the season on March 1 with a Shakspearean spectacle. The style of entertainment to be followed up will be similar to that of the Porte St. Martin, Paris, and the general admission has been placed at 50 cents.

On February 1, Miss Lydia Thompson and her burlesque troupe go to Niblo's Garden, and there produce Brough's extravaganza of "The Field of the Cloth of Gold." Until then the drama of "After Dark" will be played at Niblo's Garden.

To-morrow night, Miss Thompson and her entertaining companions are to appear at Wood's Museum in a new burlesque on the opera of "Ernani." The distribution of characters in this new piece of nonsense will include Miss Lydia Thompson as *Ernani; Don Carlos*, Lise Weber; *Donna Elvira*, Ada Harland; *Jacinta*, Mary Wells; *Juanna*, Kate Logan; *Jago*, Mr. Harry Beckett; *Don Ruy Gomez De Silva*, Louis Mestayer; *Scamsa* (his first appearance in America), Mr. Hill; *Rogney*, Mr. Daly.

The first grand Sunday Concert of the Mendelssohn Orchestral Union, is to be given this evening at Irving Hall, under the direction of Messrs. H. B. Dodworth and E. Mollenhauer.

Mr. Vandenhoff will read from Molière (his own translation) to-morrow evening at the Union League Club Theatre.

Dan Bryant's burlesque on Gabel, of the French Opera, in the Gendaimes' Duet is most excellent. The walks, gestures and general performance are cunningly copied and parodied—and the performance is encored almost as often as the original was.

Kelly & Leon are to produce at their Minstrel Hall to-morrow a new burlesque on "Genevieve de Brabant." New scenery and dresses have been made for the piece, and Leon is to parody Miss Rose Bell's performance.

A lady who advertises herself in a theatrical paper of this City as "the legitimate wife of Wm. Horace Lingard," announces that she will shortly arrive in New-York. Whom does the lady wish to reach with this announcement—the legitimate Mr. Lingard, or the legitimate public?

Miss Kellogg sang in Troy last evening.

The far West is divided between Shakespere and his modern opponents. In St. Louis they are playing "Midsummer Night's Dream," and in Salt Lake City they enjoy "Playing with Fire." President Brigham Young has recently been lecturing the Saints of his temple on the drama. Referring to his own model Salt Lake Theatre he said:

"You go into that theatre, and what is there behind the curtain that would disgrace the most perfect lady on the face of the earth? Not the least in the world. I have to watch some who come here as actors and actresses, and if they do not manifest the marks and traits of a lady and gentleman I say, 'Stop a moment. I want to tell you something. Your course will lead you wrong, and if you persist in it you cannot present yourself before the public.'"

Edwin Booth's receipts for seven performances in the City of Buffalo, last week, were $7,186.

The legitimate drama fares poorly in Hartford, at least during Christmas times. Mr. E. L. Davenport, at least, who represents that respectable order of amusement, played one evening last week to $70, and Mrs. Lander, another devotee acted to an audience representing $93. On the following evening, Buckley's Serenaders (who are they?) performed to $400.

Miss Kate Fisher, who has delighted many a Bowery boy's heart by her performances of *Mazeppa*, while at the St. Clair Hotel, Pittsburg, last week, nearly poisoned herself fatally by mistaking a bottle of arnica for cough mixture, and taking a dose.

The "Lancashire Lass" has been produced in Boston at Selwyn's Theatre, with Miss Fanny Morant as *Kate Garstone*, in place of Mrs. Chanfrau, who is still seriously ill.

Mr. Forrest has been acting at the Boston Theatre before very large audiences.

Mr. "Dolly" Davenport is playing *Flute, the Bellows Mender*, in St. Louis at the Olympic Theatre.

Notes of the Drama Abroad.

The Siamese Twins have arrived in London.

Mr. Sothern has signed an engagement to appear at Booth's new theatre, in this City, next October.

A drama has been produced in Naples, written by an Italian, entitled "Abramo Lincoln E Giovanni Booth." The heroine is a mulatto slave whom *Lincoln* preserved from torture in childhood; *Booth* is represented as a sort of crazy enthusiast of the John Felton order, and the "heavy villain" is *Jeff. Davis*. In the last scene *Booth*, resisting all appeals from the mulatto heroine, makes off—and presently a shot is heard. *Booth* reënters and shouts, *a la melodrama*: "*Sic semper tyrannis*," and runs off again. Then *Lincoln* is brought on by *Gen. Sherman*, and dies in the arms of the mulatto.

The new plays in London are only pantomimes and their introductory burlesques: Drury Lane produces a comic Christmas annual, furnished by E. L. Blanchard, who has been for the last twenty years the regular dramatic chronicler of fairy legend for this establishment. Under the title of "Grimalkin the Great," the story of "Puss in Boots" will be illustrated in an entirely original fashion. At Covent Garden Henry J. Byron presents a revised edition of his pantomime entitled "Harlequin Robinson Crusoe; or, Friday and the Fairies." The Haymarket provides a new burlesque, by Mr. Burnand, on the subject of Lord Lytton's play of "The Rightful Heir." The Queen's is supplied by William Brough with an extravaganza founded on a German story.

Bandmann has appeared at the Lyceum, London, as *Othello* to Mr. Boothroyd Fairclough's *Iago*, and the papers characterize the two performances as "pretty bad."

Verdi has nearly finished a new opera on the subject of "Romeo and Juliet."

Miss Bateman has appeared in London as *Pietra*, and has been successful. *Pietra* is a young Italian lady of the thirteenth century, nourished by her father, a leader of the Guelph faction, in an intense hatred of the Ghibellines. Chance, however, makes the fierce damsel acquainted with a fair-haired young Ghibelline, son of the deadliest foe to her house, whom she at once loves with an ardor that is passionately returned. This would be the position of a belligerent *Juliet*, but a new turn is given to the tale of true love by *Pietra's* belief that her lover has only feigned affection to secure admission into her father's castle, and destroy its inhabitants. The sudden change from trusting love to most virulent hatred, as represented by Miss Bateman, is one of the grandest transitions ever seen on any stage. The audience, who had followed the course of her mental discipline, sympathizing, like her, with the fortunes of the lover, over whose safety she had watched, and sharing the anxiety she so wondrously depicted, were astounded by the revulsion when the supposed crime of the unhappy youth is explained away by his dying lips, and *Pietra* embraces his corpse. The moment of terror is followed by the moment of sorrow, and tears bear witness to the magic power of the artist as the curtain descends upon the story of her assumed grief.

THE SPRINGFIELD ARMORY.

The Working of the Eight-Hour Law—Views of the Armorers.

To the Editor of the Springfield Republican:

As the "eight-hour system" is now a particular subject of interest, especially to mechanics and other employes of the Government, and is not unlikely to become a subject of further legislation by Congress, it may not be out of place to give a brief history of its working at the national armory in this city. The act constituting eight hours a day's work for all laborers, workmen and mechanics employed by or on behalf of the Government of the United States, was passed by Congress, June 24, 1868, and approved by the President the following day. On the 13th of July an order was issued at the armory in accordance with the above-named act, and the employes began to enjoy its benefits. The official records since that time show that they have actualy done as much work in eight hours as they formerly did in ten. On the 30th of July an order was issued excluding watchmen, clerks and messengers from the benefits of the Eight-hour law, and directing them to perform their duties the same as under the ten-hour system; directing, also that policemen, oilers and shop-tenders, being now required to work only eight hours per day, should not receive the extra fifteen cents allowed under the ten-hour system for extra services. Was their work less hazardous; or does it cost a poor man fifteen cents less per day to support his family under the eight than under the ten-hour system?

On the 20th of August, a part of the foremen called their workmen into their offices and informed them that orders had been received from Washington directing their pay to be reduced to four-fifths, but that Col. Benton, through a desire to promote their interests, and to secure to them a full day's pay, would grant them permission to work ten hours. They were then directed, without any time for reflection or consultation, to vote whether they would or would not return to the ten-hour system. This coming without any official order, a large majority refused to work the ten hours, but preferred to trust to Congress. After four days' trial the machinery stopped for want of workmen, but it was subsequently started again for the purpose of forwarding the tools for the new gun which the Government is about to manufacture, and also, it is surmised, for the benefit of the machinists, as it is a well-known fact that they could do much better than accept of the reduced pay offered, and for which they are obliged to receipt in full.

How much this is in contrast with the treatment of the employes of the British Government at the national armory at Enfield Locks, England! All the employes and their families at that post receive free, in case of sickness, medicine and medical attendance from the post surgeon. After three years' service sick employes receive half pay, and after five, full pay. In all cases of accidents they receive the same benefits as if they had worked five years in the armory. Every Saturday, at 1 o'clock, the employes are dismissed for the day, without any reduction of pay in consequence; and last, but not least, they are paid every Saturday, without fail. How different this is from the mode of payment at the armory in this city. Even when unincumbered with the eight-hour system, the subject of pay has been one which has caused no little amount of trouble and vexation to the armorers. They have often been months without having received one dollar of remuneration for their labor. They are thus forced to purchase on credit the necessaries of life at a great disadvantage, often being compelled to pay exorbitant prices for that which ready money would bring at much cheaper rates. It is true that a regular and stated time of payment would be a great innovation upon the past practice of the armory here, but as all the other posts of the Government have some regular time of payment, why should there not be one here?

It is well known among those employed by the Government in the capacity of mechanics, that almost all the improvements, both in the Government arm, as now manufactured, and the machinery for making the same, have been made by the mechanics employed by the Government, involving, of course, more or less study and experiment during the time they were not actually employed in the armory. It has been the practice of those having charge of the work to apply the improvements thus made to the Government arm, without rewarding the inventor in any way. Such a course does not tend to increase the efficiency of the Government arm, as undoubtedly the employes do not deem it prudent to have any misunderstanding with their superiors, and valuable improvements which might be made, would of course be withheld, as under the present practice they have no encouragement or inducement to improve upon the present fabrication.

We have mentioned these facts in order to show that the armorers, as a class, are really entitled to some consideration at the hands of the Government, and while it may not be expected that Congress will take any steps to legislate in regard to the individual rights of the armorers as inventors, yet the Government should appreciate what they have done, and are now doing, to promote its interests and their intellectual improvement as mechanics, and should permit them to enhance these benefits without any pecuniary detriment to themselves, by personal application, during the extra hours which the eight-hour system gives them.

Proof of the truth of this statement may be found, first, in the orders posted up in the armory grounds; second, from men who are now in this city, and who have worked in the British National Armory; third, from inventors who are employed by the Government, and whose claims are fully confirmed in Gen. A. B. Dyer's and Col. J. G. Benton's testimony before the Congressional Joint Ordnance Committee.

ARMORER.

SPRINGFIELD, Dec. 25, 1868.

TRIPLE MURDER.

An Old Lady and Her Two Granddaughters Butchered.

Correspondence of the Louisville Courier-Journal.

GLASGOW, Ky., Monday, Dec. 21, 1868.

Fentress County, Tenn., which, during the war, was the scene of many cruel and cowardly murders, seems since to have grown worse in this respect, and to its already desperately bad record has to be added the cold-blooded murder of a feeble old woman and her two granddaughters. Some weeks since the home of Mrs. Galloway, at or near Gatewood, Fentress County, was visited by a desperado named Alexander Logson, for the purpose of murder and robbery. The old lady and her two granddaughters fell an easy prey. They were evidently murdered with an ax, their brains being knocked out and scattered over the floor. A little boy, the grandson of the murdered lady, had his eye knocked out by the same weapon, and was left on the floor for dead, but lived to let the people know who the murderer was. It was thought, generally, that the murdered lady had a considerable sum of money, which had recently been received from a son in the Federal army. After these atrocious deeds, the villain, being near the line, crossed over into this State and was arrested near Huntsville, in which place his father dwells.

The officers, fearing to carry him to the county in which he committed the murders, believing that lynching would follow his arrival, proceeded with him to Livingstone, in Overton, an adjoining county. Lynching becoming imminent, he has recently been removed to Nashville.

Alexander Logson is a native of this State, and during the war served an apprenticeship under a notorious bushwhacker. Inured to robbery and murder during the war, since then it has been his almost only means of subsistence. The night before murdering Mrs. Galloway, he visited Mr. Frank Brown's store, and robbed it of about $100 worth of clothing. Mr. Brown being awakened by the noise, offered resistance, for which the robber has left him a little memento in the shape of a bullet-hole through the nose.

Marriage of Gen. Wager Swayne.

From the Louisville Courier-Journal, Dec. 24.

The most notable affair in our upper circles this week was the marriage of Gen. Wager Swayne, of the Army, to Miss Ellen Harris, daughter of Alfred Harris, Esq., the well-known lawyer. A large and brilliant assemblage witnessed the celebration of the nuptials at Christ Church, the rector, Rev. James Craik, officiating. The ceremony was rendered unusually imposing by the number and distinction of the bridal party. Chief Justice Swayne and lady, parents of the bridegroom, and Mr. and Mrs Harris, parents of the bride, graced the occasion. The bride was attended by her sister, Miss Eugenia Harris, Miss Dennison, daughter of the Ex-Governor of Ohio, Miss Swayne, sister of the bridegroom, and Miss Kelly, of Columbus, Ohio; while Gen. Swayne's suite consisted of his former comrades-in-arms, Col. Gabe Wharton, Col. Fredenberg, Col. Bulwer, and Mr. Swayne. The company went up on the mail-boat Tuesday evening to Cincinnati, and thence the General and his bride will repair to Columbus, Ohio, their future home.

Testimonials to Collector Smythe and Assistant Collector Clinch.

The following correspondence between the Collector, Assistant Collector of the port, and the officials of the Custom-house, explains itself:

CUSTOM-HOUSE, NEW-YORK, Dec. 12, 1868.

Henry A. Smythe, Esq., Collector:

SIR: We, the undersigned, officers of the Customs under your administration, being desirous of procuring a permanent testimonial of our respect for your public services and private character, and our appreciation of the uniform kindness and urbanity which have marked all your relations with us, have made arrangements to procure your portrait, to be hung in the Collector's room, and there to be always preserved.

For the artist we have selected Mr. F. A. Durivage, both as being one of our associates and for his success in painting the portraits of Collectors Gen. Lincoln and Hon. David Henshaw for the Customs officers and the merchants of Boston.

We have, therefore, to request that you will do us the honor to accept this testimonial and to sit to Mr. Durivage for the picture at such time as shall suit your convenience.

With great respect and regard, your obedient servants,

C. S. Franklin, Acting Naval Officer; Abram Wakeman, Surveyor; Rodman G. Moulton, J. H. Stedwell, J. R. Leydecker, G. M. Embree, S. F. Blatchford, Rufus King, H. K. Murray, E. C. Banfield, John A. Cook, Deputy-Collectors; S. G. Ogden, Auditor; H. D. Robinson, Cashier; J. S. Benedict, A. N. Shearer, W. H. Doty, Deputy-Surveyors, and 300 others, employes under the above divisions in the Custom-house.

REPLY OF MR. SMYTHE.

CUSTOM-HOUSE, NEW-YORK, COLLECTOR'S OFFICE, Dec. 23, 1868.

GENTLEMEN: Amid the cares and fatigues of an official position, your favor of the 12th inst., which is this moment to hand, comes to me with healing on its wings. I am inexpressibly gratified at being the recipient of such a testimonial of the respect and regard of so large a number of intelligent and faithful servitors of the Government, partners of my toil, whose practical knowledge and observation of the manner in which my public duties have been discharged make their expression of favorable opinion, honor and fame.

Apart from the personal emotions of pleasure I feel at the kind and complimentary expressions of your letter, I am exceedingly gratified to perceive in this manifestation the evidence of a disposition in the Department of the Revenue Service, over which I have had the honor to preside for nearly three years, to place a higher value on official effort than on political services, a disposition clearly evinced in the well merited eulogy contained in your letter to Charles P. Clinch, Esq., the Assistant Collector, in which I most heartily join.

I hail your proceedings, gentlemen, as the harbinger of a cultivated *esprit de corps* among the attachés of the Custom-house, which cannot fail to have a great moral effect, and which I trust may be fostered by the early passage of a bill by Congress recognizing the right of merit to a permanent place in the public service.

I am vividly impressed with the evidence of your appreciation of my public career, but feel it best to decline to accede to your request. I shall, however, never cease to appreciate a compliment that will be no less gratifying to my family than it is to

Your obliged and grateful humble servant,

HENRY A. SMYTHE.

To Messrs. Franklin, Acting Naval Officer; Wakeman and his corps, the Messrs. Deputies and those in their different divisions.

LETTER TO MR. CLINCH.

CUSTOM HOUSE, NEW-YORK, Dec. 12, 1868.

Charles P. Clinch, Esq., Assistant Collector:

DEAR SIR: We, the undersigned, officers of the Customs, appreciating your long and faithful public services, and the example of unsullied honor and untiring energy you have presented during your official career, have resolved to obtain a fitting testimonial of our respect and regard. We propose to procure your portrait to be permanently preserved in the Collector's room of the Custom-house, and request that you will do us the favor to grant sittings for that purpose to Mr. F. A. Durivage, one of our number, whom we have selected as the artist.

With very great respect, your obedient servants,

C. S. Franklin, Acting Naval Officer; Abram Wakeman, Surveyor; Rodman G. Moulton, J. H. Stedwell, J. R. Leydecker, G. M. Embree, S. F. Blatchford, Rufus King, H. K. Murray, E. C. Banfield, John A. Cook, Deputy Collectors; S. G. Ogden, Auditor; H. D. Robinson, Cashier; J. S. Benedict, A. N. Shearer, W. H. Doty, Deputy Surveyors, and three hundred other employes under the above divisions in the Custom-house.

REPLY.

CUSTOM-HOUSE, NEW-YORK, COLLECTOR'S OFFICE, Dec. 19, 1868.

SIRS: I am just in receipt of your communication of date of 12th instant, requesting that I will do you the favor of granting sittings to Mr. Durivage, one of your number, to enable him to paint a portrait of the Assistant Collector, to be permanently placed in the Collector's room of the Custom-house.

If your artist could paint the proud and grateful emotions of my heart at the declaration of the motives which induced you to make this request, I would insist on sitting at once; but as neither he nor myself are capable of executing such a task, I beg to refer to his convenience for such time or times when I shall take the chair.

Gentlemen, your individual kindnesses are registered where every day I'll turn the leaf to read them.

CHARLES P. CLINCH.

To the Acting Naval Officer, Surveyor of the Port, Heads of Divisions and the rest of my friends, whose name is legion.

Pleasant Affair at the Italian School.

About 250 little Italian children of both sexes varying from three to twelve years of age, were made to remember the blessings of Christmas, last evening, in a most satisfactory and enjoyable manner. At 8 o'clock they assembled in their school-room, at the southeast corner of Centre and Franklin streets, hurrying hither from abodes in the dismal regions of the Five Points, and with bright anticipations of some pleasant surprise or prospect for them. After their arrival they were addressed by Mr. Rice, State Superintendent of Schools, who encouraged them in kindly words to educate themselves and strive to improve their condition. They subsequently sang an Italian and an English hymn, and also two English carols, which were prettily rendered by the youthful musical voices, and were freely commended by the select audience.

Two capacious and elaborately decorated Christmas trees were then brought conspicuously before the children, each being fruitful with handsome presents. All through the opening exercises they had been looking wistfully and joyfully in the direction of these trees, knowing that they had each been promised something from them—thanks to the liberality of several ladies and gentlemen who were interested in the welfare of the school. When the time came for the bestowal of the Christmas gifts, which was conducted by Mr. A. E. Cerqua, the benevolent Superintendent of the school, and others, the expectant recipients passed in single file up to the trees, the girls coming first. It was a rare occasion for them, and they gave most unmistakable proof of their gratitude. In the general distribution some of the girls received material for winter dresses, and some shoes as a substitute, whichever they most needed being given to them; they also carried away sweet-looking dolls, habited in the national colors of Italy and the United States, beside numerous tasty edibles and toys. Then followed the boys, who had been clamorous and restive witnesses to the distribution among their more timid and tender companions, evincing by their manifestations a fond and excusable eagerness to receive the presents which were prepared for them. Those who did not urgently need shoes received woolen scarfs or caps in their place, which were accompanied by more palatable holiday remembrances. Out of the large numbers who received tickets for presents there were none neglected; each and every one of the dependent little foreigners was made to feel happy and elated with an armful of good and useful things. Among the ladies and gentlemen who enjoyed the bright and pleasant sight were Mr. L. Bailey, one of the principal promoters of the Christmas festival; Dr. and Mrs. Ceccarina; Rev. C. L. Brace, Secretary of the Children's Aid Society; Mr. Henry T. Tuckerman, of Boston; Ex-Mayor Havemeyer and wife; Mr. J. Edwin Hawley, Mr. Charles E. Whitehead and wife, Mr. G. Albinola, and many other benevolent persons.

Gas Leak and Threatened Explosion at the Olympic Theatre.

At 6:45 o'clock last evening a strong smell of escaping gas pervaded the interior of the Olympic Theatre building, No. 622 Broadway, and one of the gas men, named O'Brien, proceeded to make an investigation in the vaults under the sidewalk in Broadway. He soon found that the vaults were all full of gas and he set fire to it with his torch, thus preventing any further accumulation of gas. Further investigation resulted in the discovery that the main pipe in the street had sprung a leak, and the gas had forced its way through the soil into the vaults, as the surface was frozen hard. The man-holes in the pavement were opened so as to allow still greater freedom to the volume of gas escaping, and as there seemed to be no further damage to the building, the doors of the theatre were opened at the usual hour, though the fact of the fire or escaping gas was carefully concealed from those persons obtaining tickets for the pantomime. Notice was also given to the gas company, and they sent a gang of workmen to repair the leak, but the latter were compelled to light a bonfire to loosen the pavement, in order that an excavation might be made. An insurance watchman was placed on duty in the vaults, and Capt. Garland, of the Fourteenth Ward Police, stationed four or five officers in uniform in and about the theatre, in order to prevent any outcry or panic. Inspector Walling also visited the theatre, but was informed that the fire was all right. Fire-Marshal Brackett was notified, and pronounced the arrangements perfect, and made all necessary examination in the matter. He and Capt. Garland also agreed to stop on the stage in case of an alarm and inform the audience of the facts in the case. Under these peculiar circumstances the performance of "Humpty Dumpty" was allowed to proceed, the large audience in the theatre little dreaming of the escape of a large volume of gas, and the scene was a very suggestive one to the initiated spectator. It was very fortunate that the escaping gas was discovered as soon as it was, or there would no doubt have been a dreadful disaster, both as to the loss of property and life.

Union Home and School.

A reception was given yesterday at the Union Home and School, for soldiers' and sailors' orphans, in commemoration of the late removal of the institution from Deposit, in this State, to their new building in One Hundred and Fifty-first-street, near Eleventh-avenue. Deposit is 177 miles distant, upon the Erie Railway. The removal took place on the 17th inst. The school now consists of 170 children, two-thirds of whom are boys. It is under the Presidency of Mrs. Judge Daly, the Honorary President being Mrs. Gen. Grant. Mrs. Admiral Farragut is the first Vice-President, Mrs. Robert Forster, the second; Mrs. David Hoyt, the Secretary, and Mrs. Gen. Hillyer, the Corresponding Secretary. The Superintendent is Rev. Harvey Camp. The two only teachers are ladies. There are twenty-one lady managers. The children receive the rudiments of an English education. The boys are drilled in military exercises by a youth of the school named Thomas Davis, and the girls are taught sewing. Both education and support are given to the children free, and at 12 or 14 years of age homes are provided for them in families or on farms.

The exercises yesterday consisted of a military drill and singing. Admiral Farragut and lady, Judge Daly and lady, Judge Davies, Hon. Townsend Harris, Lieut. Royal Farragut, son of the Admiral, Gens. Montgomery and Hall, and all the lady officers of the institution were present. Admiral Farragut and Judge Daly both addressed the scholars, complimenting them on their appearance and drill, and offering a few words of advice. The latter made especial allusion to the efficiency of the young drill-master, Davis. The children then received presents from three large Christmas trees, and both they and the spectators partook of a dinner, which closed the proceedings. The institution has an influential management, and thrives. It invites aid in order further to extend its usefulness.

Skating.

This invigorating exercise was briskly enjoyed yesterday by thousands of both sexes. Every rink and pond in the City was abundantly covered with merry people, and they all presented an animated and interesting appearance. Some of the skating dresses which were worn by ladies at the different rendezvous were of very elaborate fashion, and attracted considerable attention by their picturesque and artistic effect. The practice of skating has become a delightful and fascinating Winter recreation among the gentle sex, who follow it not only for its healthful qualities, but also for the admirable opportunity with which it presents them for displaying their skill and strength of limb, and, perhaps, their beauty. The Empire Skating Rink is among the new resorts which is rapidly gaining favor and becoming popular.

SKATING IN BROOKLYN.

The Brooklyn Skating Club has become one of the flourishing institutions of the city, and now numbers over seventy members, among whom are some of the best skaters on the island. Mr. C. C. Brady is President, and Mr. Jennings Secretary. Mr. Young has designed a very handsome badge for the Club, and a prize tourney is on the tapis, to take place early in January. The prize will be a pair of Barney & Berry's handsome New-York Club skates.

VELOCIPEDES ON ICE.

On Saturday night a series of experiments was tried on the Capitoline Pond by Mr. Calvin C. Witty, of Broadway, with one of his velocipedes, with a view of making it practical to use them on the ice with the same facility as on the roads. The inventions tried in connection with the experiment were simple in their working, and the result was quite a success. The attachment can be readily applied to any velocipede, and by means of the machine the frozen lakes and rivers of the North and West can be traveled with great speed and facility. Mr. Witty will try his ice velocipede on the Capitoline Pond during the week, that pond being the most extensive inclosed pond in the vicinity of New-York.

Chess.

The third and last game in the lately-pending match between Capt. Mackenzie and Mr. Stanley was played last evening at the Maltby House, Great Jones-street. The play on this occasion was not nearly up to his usual standard on the part of Mr. Stanley, who, having committed an indiscretion in the early part of the game, fell an easy victim to his wary antagonist. The game and match being thus decided in favor of Capt. Mackenzie.

M. J. Paillard & Co.

No. 21 Maiden-lane, up-stairs, offer for the Holidays the LARGEST and finest stock of

MUSICAL BOXES

ever collected in this City. They have been carefully selected, and cannot fail to please the most exacting.

PRICES ARE WITHIN THE REACH OF ALL. Popular, Operatic and Sacred tunes arranged in a variety of ways.

THE TOY MUSICAL BOX is a very desirable plaything for children.—*Advertisement.*

MISSISSQUOI SPRINGS SEDIMENT.—This is a deposit from the celebrated Missisquoi Springs, and is an infallible remedy for SCATTERING TUMORS and healing ULCERS. For sale at the Missisquoi Springs Depot, No. 535 Broadway.—*Advertisement.*

Champagne.

Received of late, a fresh supply of MOET & CHANDON'S VERZENAY AND VIN IMPERIAL, (GREEN SEAL) of the VINTAGE 1865.

For sale with all the first-class dealers in wines in this City. ANTHONY OECHS.

NEW-YORK, Dec. 15, 1868.

Chickering & Sons,

Manufacturers of GRAND, SQUARE AND UPRIGHT PIANOS, RECEIVED THE FIRST GRAND GOLD MEDAL, and the still higher recompense, THE CROSS OF THE LEGION OF HONOR, AT THE UNIVERSAL EXPOSITION, PARIS, 1867.

These were the highest awards of the Exposition, and the house of CHICKERING & SONS was the ONLY ONE so honored.

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MARRIED.

EVERITT—EVANS.—On Christmas Eve, by Rev. Charles E. Harris, GEORGE W. EVERITT to MARY H. EVANS, all of this City.

DIED.

BOND.—On Friday, Dec. 25, at No. 111 West 30th-st., ISABELLA, the beloved wife of Geo. Bond.

Funeral from her late residence on Sunday, the 27th inst., at 12 M.

ESTERLY.—On Friday, Dec. 25, MARTIN ESTERLY, aged 55 years.

Funeral from the Washington-square Dutch Reformed Church, (Rev. Dr. Hutton's,) on Monday, 28th, at 12 o'clock. The remains will be taken to Wood Lawn for interment.

GORDON.—On Christmas, Dec. 25, ANNIE A., eldest daughter of the late Peter Gordon.

The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral from the residence of her brother-in-law, Henry R. Bonkard, No. 224 2d-av., corner 14th-st., on Sunday afternoon, at 2 o'clock.

HEAP.—On Wednesday, Dec. 23, 1868, JAMES HEAP, aged 66 years, 8 months and 13 days.

Funeral from his late residence, No. 21 East Ellison-st., Paterson, N. J., at 2½ P. M., on Sunday, the 27th inst. A train leaves Erie Railroad, Chambers-st., New-York, on Sunday at 12 o'clock M. Carriages waiting at the depot.

HULL.—On Saturday, Dec. 26, of congestion of the brain, ALFRED F., infant son of J. Frank and Carrie Cooley Hull.

Notice of funeral to-morrow.

HUNT.—On Saturday morning, Dec. 26, of pneumonia, ALICE HUNT, in the 74th year of her age.

Her friends and relatives, and those of her brother-in-law, J. J. Franks, are invited to attend the funeral from the R. D. Church, Bergen, N. J., on Monday, 28th inst., at 3 o'clock.

KIDD.—Suddenly, on Friday, Dec. 25, ANN, beloved wife of Whitten E. Kidd, in the 63d year of her age.

The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral from her late residence, No. 69 Macdougal-st., on Monday, Dec. 28, at 12 o'clock.

LEGGETT.—In Brooklyn, on Friday, Dec. 25, of scarlatina, ALBERT EDWARD, son of Francis H. Leggett, aged 5 years, 7 months and 4 days.

The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend his funeral from the residence of his grandparents, No. 219 Adelphi-st., on Sunday, 27th inst., at 2 P. M.

LUDLUM.—On Saturday, Dec. 26, at his residence, No. 111 5th-av., NICHOLAS LUDLUM, in the 69th year of his age.

Relatives and friends, and those of his son-in-law, Mr. James Otis, are respectfully invited to attend the funeral at St. Bartholomew's Church, Lafayette-place, corner of Great Jones-st., at 10 A. M. on Wednesday, 30th inst., without further notice.

STOCKING.—On Saturday, Dec. 26, Capt. CHARLES D. STOCKING, (late of the 10th Regiment N. Y. Vols.,) in the 39th year of his age.

His remains will be taken by the 3 o'clock P. M. train on Monday, the 28th inst., to Haddom, Conn., for interment. The officers and members of the 10th N. Y. Vols., and 8th Regiment N. Y. N. G., are invited to meet at No. 23 7th-st. at 1 o'clock on Monday afternoon.

SHARP.—On Wednesday, Dec. 23, PETER M. SHARP, in the 40th year of his age.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend the funeral from his late residence, No. 49 South Oxford-st., Brooklyn, on Sunday afternoon, at 2 o'clock.

TOUSLEY.—At Clifton, N. J., on Friday, Dec. 25, ELIZA A., beloved wife of Charles Tousley, in the 52d year of her age.

The funeral will take place at the Passaic Reformed Church, at 1½ o'clock on Monday, Dec. 28. Relatives and friends are invited to attend. A train leaves foot of Chambers-st. at 12 M.

VAN NESS.—On Saturday, Dec. 26, ELIZABETH VAN NESS, relict of Peter G. Van Ness, and daughter of the late Dr. Garret Haulenbeck, of Pompton, N. J.

Funeral services at her late residence, No. 103 East 24th-st., on Monday, at 2 o'clock P. M. Her remains will be taken to Pompton Plains for interment on Tuesday A. M. Relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend.

WESTLAKE.—On Saturday, Dec. 26, our little JESSIE, daughter of J. C. and Mary Frances Westlake, aged 4 years, 8 months and 10 days.

The relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend her funeral from the residence of her parents, No. 57 East 73d-st., on Monday, the 28th inst., at 1 o'clock precisely. Her remains will be interred in Green-Wood Cemetery.

YALE.—Suddenly, of heart disease, in this City, on Thursday morning, Dec. 24, Mr. LINUS YALE, Jr., of Shelburne Falls, Mass.

His funeral will take place this (Sunday) afternoon, at the residence of his brother-in-law, Mr. Ira L. Cady, No. 224 West 38th-st., at 3 o'clock. His friends are invited to attend without further notice.

MISCELLANEOUS.

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Also, on WEDNESDAY notice of the hour of closing, which will be posted at the general office, and the stations on TUESDAY, P. M.

JAMES KELLY, Postmaster.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

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POLITICAL.

UNION REPUBLICAN GENERAL COMMITTEE.—At a meeting of this Committee, held Dec. 16, 1868, at headquarters, corner of Broadway and 23d-st., the following resolution was adopted, viz.:

Resolved, That the members of the several Union Republican Assembly District Associations are hereby directed to meet at their respective headquarters, on TUESDAY, Dec. 29, 1868, and elect delegates to the Union Republican General Committee for the year 1869, and such officers and Executive Committees of the said Associations as are annually chosen. The representation in the General Committee for the year 1869 shall be upon the basis prescribed by the Republican State Convention, viz.: one delegate for every 300 votes polled at the last general election in each Assembly District, and that the following shall be the apportionment for each district:

1st District	5 Delegates.	12th District	5 Delegates.
2d District	3 Delegates.	13th District	10 Delegates.
3d District	3 Delegates.	14th District	5 Delegates.
4th District	3 Delegates.	15th District	8 Delegates.
5th District	8 Delegates.	16th District	8 Delegates.
6th District	5 Delegates.	17th District	10 Delegates.
7th District	10 Delegates.	18th District	8 Delegates.
8th District	10 Delegates.	19th District	3 Delegates.
9th District	13 Delegates.	20th District	9 Delegates.
10th District	8 Delegates.	21st District	10 Delegates.
11th District	12 Delegates.		

The President of each Association shall appoint three Inspectors, who shall receive and count the votes and sign the credentials of the persons elected, which credentials shall be indorsed by the President and Secretaries.

Polls shall be open from 7½ to 9 P. M., and the time and place of holding said elections be published at least in two Republican daily papers.

The delegates elected shall meet at headquarters Jan. 7, 1869, at 8 o'clock, and organize for the year.

THOMAS MURPHY, President.

A. J. FLUMB, Secretary.

RELIGIOUS NOTICES.

SWEDENBORGIAN LECTURES—SUNDAY EVENING, Dec. 27, at 7½ P. M.
New-York—Harvard Hall, corner 42d-st. and 6th-av. Lecturer, ALBERT SMITH. Subject—"The Word."
Harlem—Hanson's Hall, 3d-av., near 128th-st. Lecturer, THOMAS HITCHCOCK. Subject—"Salvation."
Greenpoint—Continental Hall Franklin-st. Lecturer, L. T. WILLIAMS. Subject—"The Doctrine of Life."
Jersey City—Cooper's Hall, Newark-av. Lecturer, OLIVER DYER. Subject—"Practical Religion."
Newark—Upper Library Hall. Lecturer, Rev. J. O. AGER. Subject—"The Spiritual World."

REV. DR. JOHN HALL AND REV. L. M. HUNT will address the Sabbath School Missionary Society of the Allen-st. Presbyterian Church, next SABBATH EVENING, Dec. 27, on the occasion of the Twenty-first Anniversary. Exercises commencing at 7 P. M. Singing by the children. All are cordially invited to attend. Allen-st., near Grand.

THE FIFTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY of the Sabbath School of the South Reformed Church will be celebrated in the Church, corner of 5th-av. and 21st-st., TO-MORROW (Sunday) EVENING. Addresses by Rev. GEO. J. MINGINS, and the Pastor, Rev. Dr. ROGERS. Appropriate music by the school. Exercises to commence at 7½ o'clock.

NEW-YORK PORT SOCIETY.—Preaching in the Mariners' Church, corner of Madison and Catharine sts., at 10½ A. M., by the Pastor, Rev. E. D. MURPHY, and at 7½ P. M. by Rev. HOWARD CROSBY, D. D.; also, preaching at the corner of Water and Dover sts., at 3 P. M., and at No. 27 Greenwich-st., at 3½ P. M.

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, CORNER OF Henry and Scammel sts.—Services on SUNDAY, Dec. 27, 1868. Morning at 10½; evening at 7½. Rev. Mr. RODMAN will preach in the morning. Subject—*Domestic Missions*. The Rector will preach in the evening. All are invited to attend.

FORSYTH-ST. M. E. CHURCH—Preaching at 10½ A. M. and 7½ P. M., by the Pastor, Rev. F. BROWN. Temperance meeting at 3 P. M., to be addressed by Mr. BEALE, of the New-York Prison Association, Mr. CHARLES PRATT and others. Seats free.

ST. PAUL'S REFORMED DUTCH CHURCH, Rev. ALEX. R. THOMSON, D. D., Pastor, will meet for worship, please God, in Lyric Hall, 6th-av., between 41st and 42d sts., on SUNDAY, 27th inst., at 10½ o'clock A. M., and 3½ o'clock P. M. Sunday School and children's service at 2½ o'clock P. M.

GREENE-ST. M. E. CHURCH, BETWEEN Broome and Spring sts.—Rev. J. S. INSKIP, Pastor, will preach on SUNDAY, at 10½ o'clock A. M. Subject—*The Scene of Bethlehem*; and at 7 o'clock P. M.; subject—*Time is Short*; followed by the usual prayer-meeting. Seats free. All are invited.

LAIGHT-ST. BAPTIST CHURCH, CORNER of Laight and Varick sts.—Rev. MATTHEW HALE SMITH will preach in this Church on SUNDAY, Dec. 27, at 10½ A. M. and 7½ P. M. Subject for the evening—*The Nativity of Christ*. General Bible Class at 2½ P. M. All are invited.

THE FIVE POINTS MISSION, SITE OF the Old Brewery, No. 61 Park-st.—The original permanent Mission at the Points, Rev. J. N. SHAFFER, Superintendent. Principal Sunday School from 2 to 3 o'clock P. M. Children's exercises from 3 to 4, interspersed with short addresses by visitors.

TRINITY METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 34th-st., between 7th and 8th avs.—Preaching SUNDAY MORNING and EVENING by Rev. CYRUS D. FOSS, Pastor. Strangers accommodated with seats. Galleries free.

MRS. ALCINDA WILHELM WILL SPEAK before the Society of Spiritualists at the Everett Rooms, SUNDAY, at 10½ and 7½ o'clock. Evening subject—*Woman and Marriage*. Conference at 3 P. M.; Sociable on TUESDAY EVENING at 8.

FORTY-SECOND-ST. PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.—By Divine permission, services SUNDAY, at 10½ A. M. and 7½ P. M., by Rev. W. A. SCOTT, D. D. Evening—*The Leaf Preaching the Lessons of the Departing Year.*

HALL OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, corner of 2d-av. and 11th-st.—Presbyterian Congregation.—Preaching on SABBATH, at 10½ A. M., and 7½ P. M., by the Pastor, Rev. GEO. S. CHAMBERS. Sabbath School at 9 A. M. and 2½ P. M.

ST. ANN'S FREE CHURCH, 18TH-ST., near 5th-av.—Services SUNDAY, 7½ and 10½ A. M.; 3 P. M. for deaf mutes, and 7½ P. M. At the latter Rev. A. B. VINTON, D. D., will preach. Sunday School festivals on Monday, at 7½ P. M.

OLD JOHN-ST. M. E. CHURCH.—THE Pastor, Rev. W. H. DE PUY will preach at 10½ A. M. and 7 P. M. Sunday School at 9 A. M. and 2 P. M. Seats free. Strangers cordially invited. Watch-night service on THURSDAY EVENING, at 9 o'clock.

GRACE CHAPEL—FREE CHURCH—Opposite Academy of Music, 14th-st.—Rev. WALTER DELAFIELD, Minister in charge. Services at 10½ A. M., 3½ and 7½ P. M. Sunday School 9 A. M. and 3 P. M. Rev. E. N. POTTER will preach at 7½ P. M.

REV. J. B. FROTHINGHAM WILL preach in his church in 40th-st., between 5th and 6th avs., on SUNDAY MORNING and EVENING, at 10½ and 7½ o'clock. Subject for the evening—*The New Religion of Humanity.*

REV. T. M. PETERS, D. D., RECTOR OF St. Michael's Church, will preach in behalf of "The Midnight Mission," in Trinity Chapel, 25th-st., near Broadway, THIS EVENING; services to began at 7½ o'clock. Seats will be free to all.

CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION, Madison-av., corner 47th-st.—Rev. E. O. FLAGG, D. D., Rector, will preach on SUNDAY MORNING, at 10½, and at 3½ P. M. Sunday School at 2 o'clock P. M.

AT THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SEA AND LAND, corner Market and Henry sts.—Preaching by Rev. EDWARD HOPPER at 10½ A. M. and 7½ P. M. The seats in this Church are all free.

SECOND ADVENT—PREACHING THREE times Sunday.—Preaching by Elder J. K. BELLOWS, SUNDAY, Dec. 27, A. M. and P. M., and at Star of Hope Mission, No. 14 Laurens-st.

ST. JAMES' CHURCH, HAMILTON-SQUARE.—Rev. C. B. SMITH, Rector, will preach on SUNDAY EVENING a sermon appropriate to the close of the year. Hour of service, 7½ o'clock.

PECULIAR PREACHING.—BISHOP SNOW, of Mount Zion, will preach in the University, Washington-square, on SUNDAY, at 3 P. M. Seats free. Subject—*Christ Coming from Edom*. Isaiah lxiii., 1-6.

A FREE SERVICE.—THE BROADWAY Tabernacle Church (6th-av. and 34th-st.) will be open for divine service every SABBATH EVENING, at 7½ o'clock. Seats free.

WASHINGTON-SQUARE M. E. CHURCH, 4th-st., near 6th-av.—Preaching at 10½ A. M. and 7½ P. M., by the Pastor, Rev. Dr. FOSTER. Subject for morning sermon—*The Coming of Christ.*

ST. LUKE'S CHURCH, HUDSON-ST., OPposite Grove.—Bishop SOUTHGATE will preach (D. V.) the third of the course of sermons in this church SUNDAY EVENING, Dec. 27. Services commence 7½ o'clock.

REV. M. B. ANDERSON, D. D., OF ROCHester University, will preach in the Madison-avenue Baptist Church, corner of Madison-av. and 31st-st., on next SUNDAY MORNING and EVENING.

HON. HORACE GREELEY AND REV. SAML. HILLMAN will address the Morning Star Sunday School in Pike's Opera House, corner 23d-st. and 8th-av., SUNDAY, at 2 P. M.

FREE CHURCH OF THE HOLY LIGHT, corner of Broadway and 35th-st.—Divine service at 10½ A. M. and 7½ P. M. Rev. EASTBURN BENJAMIN will preach.

CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH, 42D-ST., between 7th and 8th avs.—Preaching on SUNDAY, 10½ A. M. At 7½ P. M., Baptismal service. Rev. W. POPE YEAMAN, Pastor.

CATHOLIC APOSTOLIC CHURCH, 16th-st., between 6th and 7th avs.—Preaching by Evangelists THIS EVENING, at 7½ o'clock. Seats free.

MONETARY AFFAIRS.

Sales at the Stock Exchange—DEC. 26, 1868.

$1,000 U. S. 6s, '81, R.	108⅞	30 N. Y. Cen.	154⅛
1,000 U. S. 6s, 5-20, C.,		400 do	153¾
'62	110⅜	100 do	153⅝
10,000 do	110⅞	400 do ...b30	155⅛
2,000 U. S. 5-20 C., '65,		100 do	153⅝
new ...b3	110⅞	700 do	153¾
4,000 5-20s, C., '67	110⅞	86 do ...2d call	153¾
3,000 U.S. 5s, 10-40 C.	105⅜	200 Hudson R	135
7,000 do	105⅜	200 do	134⅞
36,000 Tenn. St. 6s, ex c.	68⅜	100 Erie Pf.	62½
20,000 do	68⅜	200 Reading	98⅜
40,000 do	68⅜	200 Mich. So. & N. I.	88⅜
20,000 Tenn. 6s new	68⅜	100 do	88⅜
10,000 do	68⅜	100 do ...b30	89⅛
20,000 do	68⅜	100 Chi. & N. W.	79⅜
20,000 Va. St. 6s, ex c.	56	100 Lake Shore	98⅜
15,000 N. Car. 6s, new	61½	100 Chi. & N. W. Pf.	82⅜
2,000 Missouri St. 6s,		600 do ...c	82⅛
bet. call	90	700 do ...b3	82⅛
500 Ill. Cen. Bds.	114½	200 do ...b15	83
1,000 Gt. West. 2d M.	76	900 Clev. & Tol.	100⅞
1,000 M. & St. P. 8s 1st	103	200 do ...b30	101⅝
2,000 Chic. & Mil. 1st	90	400 do	101⅝
20,000 C., C. & I. C. 1st	73⅜	200 do ...b15	101⅜
10,000 do	73⅜	200 do	101
1,000 St. L. & Iron M.		100 Chi. & R. I.	115⅝
R. 1st M. Bds.	86⅜	100 do	115⅝
30 St. Nich. Bank	111	20 do ...bet. call	116
25 Cent. Nat. Bank	105⅜	200 Tol., W. & W.	59
15 Pacific Mail	120	100 N. J. Cen.	113
200 do	120⅜	98 do ...bet. call	113
200 do	120⅜	100 P., Ft. W. & C.	112
100 West. U. T.	33⅜	200 do	111⅞
200 Del. & Hud. Can.	130	500 Ohio & Miss.	31½
200 Wells-Fargo Ex.	25⅜	850 do	31½
200 do	25	1400 do	31⅜
37 U. S. Ex.	45	100 Alt. & T. H. Pf.	65
300 Erie	39	343 C. Cin. & I. Cen.	88
50 do	39⅛	100 Rens. & Sar.	93
25 do	39⅛	100 Morris & Essex	87

SECOND BOARD—12½ P. M.

$10,000 5-20 C., '62 ...b3	110⅜	$1,000 U. S. 6s, 5-20 R.,	
13,000 do ...b3	110⅞	'65, new	105⅜
20,000 do	110⅞	74,500 U. S. 5-20, C.,	
$9,000 U. S. 6s, 5-20 C.,		'67 ...c	110⅞
'65	107⅜	4,000 do ...c	110⅞
2,500 5-20 C., '65, new	110⅞	10,000 do	110⅞

OPEN BOARD—10 A. M.

100 U. S. Express	45	100 Quick. M. Co.	21⅜
200 Pac. Mail	121	100 Mil. & St. P. ...c	68
400 do	120⅞	100 do	68¼
100 do	120⅞	200 P., Ft. W. & C.	112⅛
100 West. U. T. ...ex d	33⅜	800 Mich. So. & N. I.	88⅜
10 do	33	300 do ...c	88⅜
200 N. Y. Central	154	100 do ...b30	89
300 do	154⅛	400 Clev. & Pitts.	83⅜
500 do	154⅛	400 do ...c	83⅜
300 do ...c	154⅛	200 do	83⅜
100 do ...c	154⅛	700 do ...s15	83⅜
400 Erie	39	300 do	83⅜
200 do ...b10	38⅞	800 do	83⅜
200 do	38⅞	200 do	83⅜
200 Hudson	135	400 do ...s35	83⅜
100 do	134⅞	100 do ...s15	83
100 Tol., W. & W. ...b3	60	300 Clev. & Tol.	100⅞
300 do	59	300 do	100⅞
400 Mil. & St. P. Pf.	86	1200 do	100⅞
800 do ...b10	86⅜	1500 Chi., R. I. & P.	115⅞
200 do ...b3	86	300 do ...c	115⅞
100 do	85⅞	600 do ...c	115⅞
100 do	85⅜	400 Chi. & N. W.	80
200 do	85⅜	500 do	79⅞
400 do	85⅞	800 do ...c	79⅞
800 Ohio & Miss.	31⅜	200 do ...b3	79⅞
1100 do	31⅜	200 do ...b3	79⅞
200 do ...b5	31⅜	500 C. & N. W. Pf.	82⅜
300 do ...c	31⅜	300 do ...c	82⅜
300 do ...b10	31⅜	200 do ...c	82⅜
200 do ...s3	31⅜	600 do	82⅜

OPEN BOARD—1 P. M.

100 Wells-Fargo Ex.	25⅜	300 P., Ft. W. & C.	112⅜
100 Mer. U. Ex. ...b3	15⅞	100 do ...b3	112⅜
100 Quick. Min. Co.	21⅜	100 do ...c	112⅜
400 Pacific Mail ...c	119⅞	600 Ohio & Miss.	31⅜
200 do	119⅞	1800 do	31⅜
200 do ...b3	119⅞	800 do	31⅜
300 West. U. T.	33⅜	400 do ...b10	32
800 N. Y. Cen.	153⅞	600 Mich. So. & N. I.	87⅞
300 do	153⅞	200 do ...b3	87⅞
300 do	153⅞	200 do	87⅞
200 do ...c	153⅞	100 Clev. & Pitts.	83⅜
100 Erie	38⅞	200 do	83⅜
800 do	38⅞	300 do ...s15	82⅞
500 do	38⅞	500 do	83
600 do ...b3	38⅞	600 Cleve. & Tol.	101⅛
100 Adams Ex.	49	1200 Chi., R. I. & P.	116
100 Hudson	134⅞	100 do ...b30	117
600 Harlem, ex d.	126	300 do	116⅞
700 do	125	100 Chi. & N. W.	79¾
600 Reading	98⅜	600 do	79⅞
100 T., W. & W. ...b15	59	200 do ...b3	79⅞
100 do	58⅞	200 do	80
200 do ...b30	60	300 Chi. & N. W. Pf.	82
100 Mil. & S. P.	67⅛	300 do	82⅜
300 Mil. & St. P. Pf.	85⅜		

SATURDAY, Dec. 26—P. M.

The Wall-street markets generally improved after the Holiday of Friday. The supply of Money was better, the Public Funds decidedly higher, and the Railway Shares higher in prices on a buoyant upward speculation. The sales of Gold varied but slightly from the last figures of Thursday. The transactions ranged 135@134⅞@134¾ ℘ cent. There was not much animation in the Gold Room, though the demand was firmer than was anticipated on the near prospect of large disbursements for Gold Interest from the Treasury, and a decline of ⅛ ℘ cent. in the Foreign Exchanges; the quotation on London being 109⅛@109¼ ℘ cent.

The Brokers paid for Money from 7 ℘ cent. Currency to 7 ℘ cent. in Gold on loans on demand. The pressure to borrow was less marked than early in the week, and the Bank accounts of the Brokers were made up in good season, without much trouble. Merchant paper is very strictly classified, and prime signatures short dates are 8@10 ℘ cent. per annum. An old Dry Goods Jobbing and Commission firm, hitherto esteemed highly respectable, stopped payment, owing, it is said, from $1,500,000 to $2,000,000—Messrs. LOTHROP, LUDINGTON & Co. Their trouble, like that of Messrs. TURNBULL, SLADE & Co., who failed early in the week, is said to be of several years' standing, in the way of cash advances on or out-and-out purchases of Factory property, after the excitement in and profits upon Woollen and other manufactures, during and immediately following the War, had subsided.

The Bank return of the week again reduces the lawful money reserve, $2,089,000 in Greenbacks, and $702,000 in Gold; and the general line of Deposits is down $4,573,000. The excess of lawful money over the required 25 ℘ cent. is thus reduced nearly two million of dollars, although it is satisfactory to add that a relatively better showing is looked for next Saturday. The Loans and Discounts have been reduced since last Monday $1,091,000.

The Treasury Office received for Customs during the week, in Gold, $1,249,000, and paid out for Gold Interest $408,000. The Office has also issued a large amount of Gold Checks, payable Jan. 1, for Gold Interest, which will be made equal to Cash Gold next week if required in aid of the Quarterly Statements of the Banks, by whom most of these Checks are held, either for themselves or for collection.

The Public Funds of 1867 advanced to 110⅞ ℘ cent. to-day, and other descriptions of 5-20s were correspondingly firm, and the 1881s and 10-40s steady in price and but sparingly offered. The Border State Bonds were also firm, and Tennessees and Virginias in demand.

The Railway list, led by New-York Central and Rock Island, was unusually strong, and the speculators for further rise seemed to pay little or no attention to the condition of the Money market, present or prospective. The prices of the favorite Roads are advanced with much ease, and at the close of business, (no late Boards on the Stock Exchange,) they stood as follows, as compared with Thursday night. Fort Wayne Stock is now quoted, ex January Dividend, quarterly, of 2½ ℘ cent.:

	Thursday.	Saturday.
United States 10-40s	105⅛	105⅜
United States 5-20s of 1862	110⅛	110⅜
United States 5-20s of 1867	110⅞	110⅞
American Gold Coin	135	134⅞
Bills on London, 60 days	109⅛	109⅛
New Bonds of Tennessee	68⅛	68⅜
Virginia Bonds, old	55½	56
Missouri Bonds	90⅛	90
North Carolina Bonds, old	64	64⅜
New-York Central	152⅞	153⅞
Erie Railway	38⅞	39⅛
Reading Railway	98⅛	98⅜
Chicago and Rock Island	115	116⅛
Northwest Common	79⅞	80
Northwest Preferred	82⅛	82⅜
Michigan Southern	87⅞	88⅜
Pittsburg and Ft. Wayne	110⅛	*110⅜
Cleveland and Pittsburg	84	83
Pacific Mail Company	120	119⅞
St. Paul Prefered	84⅞	85⅜
St. Paul Common	67⅛	67⅜
Toledo and Wabash	59	58⅞

*Ex-Dividend.

The following bids were made for the various Public Funds of the United States at the close of business:

6 ℘ cent. reg., 1881	108⅜	5-20 coup., 1867	110⅞
6 ℘ cent. coup., 1881	114⅜	5-20 coupon 1868	110⅞
5-20 reg., 1862	105⅜	5 ℘ cent. reg., 1871	120
5-20 coup., 1862	110⅜	5 ℘ cent. coup., 1871	122
5-20 coup., 1864	106⅜	10-40 reg.	102⅜
5-20 reg., 1865	105⅜	10-40 coup.	105⅜
5-20 coup., 1865	107⅜	6s currency	99
5-20 coup. '65, n. is	110⅜		

And the following for the State Bonds:

N. Y. Reg. B'y Loan	107	Tennessee 6s ex. c.	68
N. Y. Coup. B'y Loan	110⅜	Tennessee 6s, new bds.	68⅜
N. Y. 7 ℘ c. Canal, 1870	100⅜	Tenn. 5s	68⅜
N. Y. 6 ℘ c. Canal, 1872	100⅜	Virginia 6s., ex c.	55⅜
N. Y. 6 ℘ c. Canal, 1873	100⅜	Virginia 6s., n. bds.	56⅜
N. Y. 6 ℘ c. Canal, 1874	100⅜	Georgia 6s	79
N. Y. 6 ℘ c. Canal, 1875	100⅜	Georgia 7s, n. bds.	93
N. Y. 6 ℘ c. Canal, 1877	101	North Carolina 6s	65
N. Y. 6 ℘ c. Canal, 1878	100⅜	North Car. 6s, n. bds.	61⅜
Ohio 6 ℘ c., 1881	104	Missouri 6s	90
Illinois coupon, 6s, 1879	102⅜	Louisiana 6s	65
Illinois War Loan	102⅜	Louisiana levee bds	59
Michigan 6 ℘ c., 1873	100	Rhode Island 6s	101

And the following for the City Bank Stocks: the January half-yearly Dividend of the Eighth National is *five per cent.*; of the Brooklyn Atlantic National, *five per cent.*; of the East River National, *four per cent.*; of the Bull's Head Bank, (quarterly) *four per cent.*; of the Shoe and Leather National, *five per cent.*; of the Importers' and Traders' National, *five per cent.*

Manhattan	142	Metropolitan	138x
Mechanics'	125	Market	117
America	145x	Nassau	105
Phenix	103x	Corn Exchange	130
National	115	Continental	100
State of New-York	111	St. Nicholas	107
Commerce	119⅜	Impt'rs. & Traders'	123
Mechanics' B'k Ass.	117	Park	146x
Ocean	110	Fourth National	102x
Merchants' Exch'ge	113	Tenth National	100
Bank of the Republic	121	Gold Exchange	130⅜
Irving	110		

And the following for the Railway Mortgages:

N. Y. Cen. 6s, 1883	92	Tol. & W. 1st M.	92
N. Y. Cen. 6s, R. Est.	86⅜	Tol. & W. Equip. bds.	73
N. Y. Cen. 6s, Subscr'n	86⅜	Gt. Western 1st M. '88	87
N. Y. Cen. 7s, 1876	100	Gt. Western 2d M. '93	76
Erie 7s, 2d ind., 1879	98	Gal. & Chic. Ex.	98⅜
Erie 7s, 3d ind., 1883	92	Gal. & Chic. 2d M.	95
Erie 7s, 4th ind. 1880	86	Chi. & R. I. 1st M.	100
Hud. R. 7s, 1st M. '69-'70	100	Chi. R. I. & P.	96⅜
Harlem 1st M.	100	Clev. & Tol. S. F.	98
Mich. C. 8 ℘ c. '69-'72	110	Morris & Essex 1st M.	96
Mich. Cen. N. 1st M. 8s '82	110	Morris & Essex 2d M.	92⅜
Chi. B. & Q. 8 ℘ c. 1st M.	111⅜	Pitts. Ft. W. & Ch. 1st M.	103
Ill. Cent. 7 ℘ c. 1875	114⅜	Pitts. Ft. W. & Ch. 3d M.	93
Alton & T. H. 1st M.	92	Cleve. & P. 2d M.	90
Alton & T. H. 2d M. pf	82	Cleve. & P. 3d M.	83
Chi. & N. W. S. Fund	96	Cleve. & P. 4th M.	78
Chic. & N. W. int. Bds.	89	Chi. & Alt. 1st M.	102
Con. 7 ℘ cent. con.	89	Atlantic & G. W. 1st M.	75
Con. 7 ℘ cent. Ex'n bds	89	Peninsula R. R. bonds	80
Con. 7 ℘ cent. 1st M.	91	Mil. & St. Paul 1st M. 8s	102⅜
Lack. & West'n. bds.	96	M. & St. P. 1st M. 7 3-10	93
Del. L. & W. 1st M.	98	Chic. & G. East'n 1st M.	73⅜

From the report made by the Michigan Central Railroad Company, according to the provisions of their charter, to the Secretary of State of Michigan, for the year ending Nov. 30, 1868, it appears that the receipts of that Company were:

From passengers	$1,752,362	
From freight	2,568,798	
From other sources	187,595	—$4,508,756

The expenses:

For road repairs	$568,447	
For engine and car repairs	520,417	
All other operating expenses	1,558,304	—$2,647,169
Leaving a balance for interest and dividend		$1,861,587

The day's business at the office of the United States Assistant Treasurer was as follows: Total receipts, $1,025,556; total payments, $2,173,870; balance, $90,476,835. The receipts include for Customs, $244,000; for Gold Notes, $101,000.

Report of Specie exported from the port of New-York, for the week ending Dec. 26, 1868.

Dec. 22, steamship Cambria, Hamburg, foreign silver	$1,000
Dec. 23, steamship Mississippi, Para, American gold	4,100
Dec. 24, schooner Helen M. Waite, Maracaibo, American gold	35,000
Dec. 24, steamship Main, London, Mexican silver	319,199
Dec. 24, steamship Main, London, gold bars	9,600
Dec. 26, steamship St. Laurent, Havre, silver bars and coin	4,600
Dec. 26, steamship St. Laurent, Havre, gold bars and coin	164,300
Dec. 26, steamship City of London, Liverpool, British gold	5,000
Dec. 26, steamship City of London, Liverpool, gold bars	66,000
Total	608,799

The return of the Bank of England for the week ending Dec. 9, gives the following results when compared with the previous week:

Rest	£3,063,536	Decrease	£5,100
Public deposits	6,363,025	Increase	787,331
Other deposits	17,608,301	Decrease	477,577
Govern't Securities	15,074,874	No change.	
Other Securities	17,373,559	Increase	185,180
Notes unemployed	8,563,845	Increase	66,530

The amount of notes in circulation is £23,200,140, being a decrease of £309,970; and the stock of bullion in both departments is £17,841,669, showing a decrease of £245,779 when compared with the preceding returns.

The Paris *Moniteur* of Dec. 10 publishes the following official returns of the Bank of France:

	Dec. 3. Francs.	Dec. 10. Francs.
Capital of the bank	182,500,000	182,500,000
Profits in addition	7,044,776	7,044,776
Reserve of the bank	22,105,750	22,105,750
Landed property	4,000,000	4,000,000
Notes in circulation	1,292,306,100	1,285,132,500
Bank notes to order	33,259,070	32,691,825
Treasury account	181,994,613	181,087,277
Current accounts	280,706,238	278,653,064
Current branch banks	49,598,635	46,301,491
Dividends payable	786,031	761,129
Discounts	7,046,034	7,447,826
Rediscounted	703,152	703,152
Sundries	13,036,681	9,115,447
Total	2,075,087,082	2,057,544,243
Cash in hand	1,168,418,969	1,155,038,827
Commercial bills overdue	545,126	
Commercial, not yet due	241,148,623	248,247,574
Commercial, branch banks	248,843,091	238,991,767
Advances on bullion	41,321,400	40,157,100
Branch banks	8,072,200	7,943,800
French public securities	12,123,700	11,977,700
Branch banks	7,626,000	7,191,600
On railway shares, &c.	36,606,900	36,578,000
By the branch banks	28,435,700	28,168,600
On Credit Foncier	912,900	908,700
Branches	913,300	913,800
To the State	60,000,000	60,000,000
Government stock reserve	12,980,750	12,980,750
Government disposable	80,633,437	80,633,437
Rentes immobiles	100,000,000	100,000,000
Hotel and furniture	9,066,398	8,986,043
Expenses of management	2,655,066	2,687,028
Sundries	14,928,520	15,939,687
Total	2,075,087,082	2,057,544,243

The *American Railroad Journal* closed its 41st volume with the weekly issue of this date. The editor and proprietor of this very useful class publication furnishes, with the issue for the current week, a title page and index to the volume for the year now ending.

The aggregate amount of Imports (other than Dry Goods and Specie) at the port of New-York from foreign ports, for the week ending Dec. 25, 1868, was $2,940,595.

The Dry Goods Imports for the week amounted to $935,210.

LAW REPORTS.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT.

Before Judge Blatchford and a Jury.

INVOLUNTARY BANKRUPTCY.

Julius Callin, Jr., et al. vs. *Benjamin B. Merrill.*—This was an application by Abernethy & Co., as creditors, to have the debtor, Merrill, declared a bankrupt. The debtor was formerly a merchant tailor, carrying on business at No. 1,142 Broadway. The evidence of Mr. Catlin, one of the firm of Abernethy & Co., showed that on June, 27, 1868, Merrill, who was indebted to his firm in about $1,600, stated to him that he owed in all $8,500 in business debts and $7,000 to his wife on a note given four years ago, and had $10,000 in merchandise and $2,000 in accounts. On July 1, 1868, he sold out all his stock in trade to Irving H. McBride, to pay the $7,000 note, which was on that day passed by the wife of Merrill to her brother, McBride, who now claims to carry on the business, Merrill acting as the agent. It also appeared in evidence that about the middle of June, 1868, Merrill paid his wife $1,500 in cash as back interest on this $7,000 note.

Three acts of bankruptcy were alleged, and the jury required to find specifically on each:

First—Was the payment by Merrill, the debtor to his wife, on the 15th of June, 1868, of $1,500, as back interest, thus recognizing her as a debtor, made in contemplation of insolvency?

Second—Was the sale and transfer to McBride, of all the goods and property of which Merrill was possessed (except book accounts) on July 1, 1868, in payment of the $7,000 note, formerly given to and held by the wife, made with intent to hinder, delay, and defraud creditors?

Third—Was the sale to McBride, under the circumstances above stated, made by Merrill with intent to give preference to a creditor?

The jury, after an absence of about five minutes, brought in their verdict, finding for the creditors, Abernethy & Co., on all three questions, declaring the debtor an involuntary bankrupt.

Horatio F. Averill and Thos. Allison, of counsel, for creditors; E. W. Dodge, of counsel, for debtor.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT—SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW-YORK.

Before Judge Blatchford.

THE BLAISDELL AND ECKEL CASE—THE DISTRICT-ATTORNEY RECEIVES ORDERS TO BRING THE CASE ON FOR TRIAL AT ONCE.

Immediately after the adjournment of the Circuit and the opening of the District Court, Mr. Courtney said: Your Honor will recollect that, on Thursday last, in the case of the United States vs. Alva Blaisdell et al., I informed you that I had orders from Washington to suspend proceedings until further directed. This morning I received orders from the Department at Washington, directing me to proceed with the trial of that case. I desire to state that, if possible, I should like to bring it on on Monday morning; and as soon as the Stevenson case, which is set down for next Monday, is disposed of, I propose to take up this case.

Judge BLATCHFORD said the Blaisdell case will be called for trial immediately after the Stevenson case is disposed of.

INDICTMENTS—ARRAIGNMENT AND PLEAS OF INDICTED PARTIES—PERJURY AND WHISKY CASES.

Before Judge Blatchford.

Judge BLATCHFORD took his seat in the Circuit Court yesterday, and by a previous arrangement of Judge Benedict's, a number of the parties indicted this term by the Grand Jury were arraigned and pleaded to the indictments.

THE BAILEY PERJURY CASES.

Alva Blaisdell, Abraham Powelson, Abijah Richardson and Henry Genness.—In this case all but Blaisdell answered to their names and pleaded not guilty. Blaisdell not appearing in Court, his bail-bond was forfeited, and a bench warrant issued for his arrest.

Mr. Courtney stated that he desired to have this case set down for trial on the first day of the January Term.

Judge BLATCHFORD replied, that as Judge Benedict was to hold the Court for that term, it would be better that he should make his own arrangement for the trial of the causes that were to come before him.

In the case of Jesse C. Rowe *alias* James Calverley, the defendant pleaded not guilty.

The next case called was Harrison Shaw *alias* John Lamartine, who pleaded not guilty.

George B. Davis was called, and also pleaded not guilty.

All three parties are implicated in the Collector Bailey case, and are indicted for perjury.

A WHISKY CASE.

Jacob Depew and Moses Depew were called, and in response pleaded not guilty. These parties are brothers, and are indicted for removing whisky after it had been seized by Government officials.

COUNTERFEITING CASES.

Robert Boyd, James Carr, Martin Schanck and Daniel Coffin, all separately indicted for making and passing counterfeit national bank notes and fractional currency of various denominations, were called and pleaded not guilty.

The District-Attorney stated that there still remained a large number of indictments, which would be ready on Tuesday or Wednesday, when the parties indicted would be called to put in their pleas.

There being no further business before the Court it was adjourned to Saturday, the 2d of January.

SURROGATE'S COURT.

Before Surrogate Tucker.

WILLS ADMITTED.

The wills of the following deceased persons have been admitted to probate during the week ending the 26th inst.:

Sarah Lewis, Sarah Jane Barker, John H. Woodgate, Horace F. Farrington, Mary Fanning, James Gillespie, Louisa A. Whitaker, Jonathan Hall, Chas. Brenan, Julius Newmann, Patrick Healy, Mary Wahl, Jos. E. Eoling, Chas. Steinick, Sarah Goodstein, Catharine Corley, Asa Clark, Shelton Burwell.

LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION.

Letters of administration have been granted on estates of Honora Mahony, William Helis, August Geiger, Charles McCue, Albert Kruger, William Gates, Louis Gyette, Thomas Johnson, Ludwig Milham, David Paulla, Francis Stewart, William Harp, George A. Harriot, John C. Helff, Oscar Lindauer, Ellen Mulhall, John Meehan, David G. Wendell, Bridget McCune, Sopre Miller, George Krang, Anthony L. Robertson.

DECISIONS.

SUPREME COURT—CHAMBERS—DEC. 26.

By Judge Cardozo.

Margaretta Bogart *vs.* Samuel L. Bogart; decree granted.

Peter W. Peckham *vs.* Dennis Beach; motion granted.

Robert O. Commelin *vs.* Daniel P. Smith; motion granted on defendant stipulating not to sue.

In the matter of the application of Susan E. Ryer; motion granted.

C. Fredericks *vs.* John Fredericks; motion denied with leave to renew on additional affidavits supporting the plaintiff's case.

L. Lissner *vs.* Charles A. Davidson; motion denied.

The People ex rel. Verlie *vs.* George Atwater; papers not all submitted; referee's minutes, answer, &c., are wanted.

In the matter of the receivership of the Columbian Insurance Company; motion granted.

Daniel J. Anderson *vs.* Sarah Barnett et al.; motion granted.

In the matter of Robert Wacob; see memorandum.

In the matter of the application of Wm. A. Kobbert et al.; see memorandum.

Wm. H. Canfield *vs.* Edward White; motion granted. DeWitt C. Graham, Esq., appointed Receiver. Order to be settled on notice.

Story *vs.* Mead; this order is not in accordance with my decision.

SUPERIOR COURT—SPECIAL TERM—DEC. 26.

By Judge Barbour.

Schlesstein et al. *vs.* Steinhard; the judgment and verdict must be set aside and vacated, with costs to abide event.

By Judge Garvin.

Schnepel *vs.* Bemet et al.; extra allowance of five per cent granted.

By Judge Jones.

Eighth National Bank of New-York *vs.* New-York and Canada Oil Company; extra allowance of $250.

Naumann *vs.* Caldwell; motion denied without costs.

By Judge McCunn.

Gregory *vs.* Gregory; motion to settle order granted.

Halligan *vs.* Shanter; motion granted on payment of costs of term at which inquest was taken, and cause to be placed on the January calendar.

COMMON PLEAS—SPECIAL TERM—DEC. 26.

By Judge Barrett.

Emma L. Miller *vs.* Theodore Miller; report confirmed and judgment of divorce granted; custody of child awarded to plaintiff.

SURROGATE'S COURT—BROOKLYN.

Before Hon. Wm. D. Veeder.

WILLS PROVED.

During the past week the wills of the following-named persons were proved: John Barrett, Jules J. Bonnet, Heinrich Schluter and Wm. White, all of the City of Brooklyn.

LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION.

Letters of Administration were granted in the estates of the following-named persons, viz.: Margaretta Smith, of the town of New-Utrecht, Thomas Regan, Mary Daly, Max Grunwald, Edward Hughes, Garret McTernan, Lorenzo B. Shepard, Mary Boyd, Dewitt C. Enos, Burnet D. Britton, Thomas A. Laurence and Thomas Farrell, all of the City of Brooklyn.

LETTERS OF GUARDIANSHIP.

Letters of Guardianship of John Hanigan, Josephina Hanigan, Harriotta Hanigan and Charles H. Hanigan, were granted to Mary Ann Hanigan; of Anson T. Colt to Sherman P. Colt, his father; of Mary Stewart, Ellen J. Stewart and Frank Stewart to Anthony Smith, all of the City of Brooklyn.

THE ERIE RAILWAY WAR.

Arguments of Counsel Concluded—Mr. Field's Reply upon Defendants' Application—Decision of the Court Reserved.

August Belmont and Ernest B. Luckie vs. *The Erie Railway Company and others.*—The hearing of counsel in this case was resumed yesterday morning, in the Supreme Court, Chambers, before Judge Cardozo. The Court as usual was densely crowded.

Mr. CHAS. A. RAPALLO, addressing the Court, said: "If your Honor please, before the argument of this motion proceeds, I would state that on Tuesday last I obtained an order appointing a referee to take the examination of Mr. DIVEN, whose affidavit I wished to procure, for the purpose of submitting to your Honor, and with the hope that you would give us permission to read it on this motion. Mr. DIVEN was summoned to appear before the referee on Wednesday, and, on attending before the referee, Mr. DIVEN was present, ready to be examined, but we were there met by an order, obtained in the meanwhile, suspending all proceedings for the examination of Mr. DIVEN, which, of course, rendered it impossible to procure the affidavit. What legal objection to the examination of Mr. DIVEN could exist, I cannot understand, for certainly, Mr. DIVEN could have no right to object to such an order, he having refused to make his affidavit voluntarily. As to the defendants, they had no right to interfere, for this was a matter purely *ex parte*, and the gentlemen might as well attempt to restrain me from drawing any affidavit in my office which I thought proper to submit to your Honor, or to interfere with this examination; still they have thought proper to procure this stay, and now I would ask your Honor that in case I procured this affidavit I may be at liberty to submit it during the argument, or before you have made your decision.

The Court—I will first dispose of the motion to vacate the order, and then you can take whatever steps you may deem proper.

The Court reads opinion, in which he directs that the order to examine Mr. DIVEN be vacated.

Mr. Rapallo—We shall eventually procure the affidavit of Mr. DIVEN, notwithstanding the attempt of my learned friends to stifle this evidence.

The Court—Mr. DIVEN has a right to make an affidavit voluntarily if he sees fit.

Mr. Rapallo—We shall compel it *involuntarily*.

The Court—The present disposition of the motion does not cut you off from any future application.

Mr. Rapallo—I am quite aware of that, and if I am fortunate enough to obtain the affidavit before your Honor has decided, I think you will be satisfied that it ought to be received. And if it is not procured until after your decision, it may afford a ground for rehearing.

MR. FIELD'S REPLY.

Mr. DAVID DUDLEY FIELD, in reply, upon defendants' application to reopen the discharge order appointing a receiver, said that the plaintiffs have insisted, in answer to the defendants' application: First, that the Court has not power to entertain the application; second, that, if entertained, it would be contrary to the practice of the Court to grant it; and, third, that if granted, and a reargument had, the order appointing Mr. DAVIES receiver should not be discharged or disturbed. The defendants, on the other hand, insist: First, that the Court has power to entertain the application; second, that, being entertained, it should be granted; and, third, that upon the reargument, taking into consideration the additional papers now before the Court, the order appointing Mr. DAVIES receiver should be discharged.

First—The Court has no power to entertain the application. That power is expressly conferred by section 174 of the code, which declares that the Court "has in its discretion, and upon such terms as may be just, power at any time within one year after notice thereof, to relieve a party from a judgment, order or other proceedings taken against him through his mistake, inadvertence, surprise, or excusable neglect." Counsel maintained that, even without this provision, the power of the Court to entertain the application could not have been doubtful. A motion has been reargued a second time before the Chancellor of England, though various technical objections were urged against it. (*Ex parte* Besley, 3 Macn. and G., 287.) The English Court of Chancery will, in general, rehear petitions, and rescind former orders upon fresh evidence tendered. (*Re* Lavender, 4 Deac. and Chit., 497. See also Attorney-Gen. *vs.* Croft, 15 Jur., 1,028.) The case of *ex parte* Livingston, 34 N. Y., 555, decides nothing against the existence of the power. That was a final order in a special proceeding. The Judge who alone delivered the opinion, expressly admitted the right to discharge an order granted on argument in the cases specified in section 174. The other Judges concurred only "in the disposition to be made of the case as recommended" by him. If the Court had not the power of reopening a motion, there must often be a denial of justice. With regard to the statement that the reargument should be had before the Judge who made the first order, counsel read the following reply: 1. That this was attempted in the present case. The defendants' attorneys went into Chambers to ask Mr. Justice SUTHERLAND for the order to show cause. But he was absent, and thereupon they went to Mr. Justice CARDOZO, who was holding the other branch of the Court at the Special Term. 2. That there is, however, no sufficient or legal reason why a matter heard by one Judge may not be considered anew by another. It is a common practice to make a motion for a new trial before a Judge other than the one who tried the case before.

It has been held by the General Term in the First District, (Seiden *vs.* Christopher, 1 Abb., 272,) that an order made by one Judge on argument may be modified by another at Special Term; and by the General Term in the Sixth District, (Wilkinson *vs.* Tiffany, 4 Abb., 98,) that an order improvidently granted may be set aside by any Judge of the Court. It is said, however, that the defendants have appealed from the order, and that debars them from moving to discharge it. There is no inconsistency between the two proceedings, as there is between appealing from an order and taking the benefit of it, as in Bennet *vs.* Van Syckel, (18 N.Y., 481.) In the present case, both the appeal and the motion are aimed at the overthrow of the order. The difference between them is, that the motion is more comprehensive than the appeal, because the former lets in all the evidence in the case, while the latter rests only upon the evidence which the defendants were able to bring before Mr. Justice Sutherland. In England, it is held that a rehearing may be had after an appeal. (Fournier *vs.* Paine, 3 My. and K., 207, n.) A rehearing was allowed, while an appeal was pending in the House of Lords, in Galway *vs.* Barron, (Longfield & Towns., 76.) The fact that parties have acted under a decree, is no objection to a rehearing. (Brophy *vs.* Holmes, 2 Molloy, 7; Morgan *vs.* Morgan, 14 Beav., 72.) In the former case the Chancellor said that he had, as counsel, obtained a rehearing after the lapse of ten years. In the latter case twelve years had elapsed. So in this State motions to renew have been entertained after appeal. (Noble *vs.* Prescott, 4 E. D. Smith, 139; Peel *vs.* Elliott, 16 How., 483; Benkard *vs.* Babcock, 17 Abb., 421.)

Second—The reopening of the motion and a reargument, being thus shown to be within the power of the Court, should be granted. The defendants were on the former argument taken by surprise. Though the order to show cause was granted on the 16th of November, returnable on the 23d, yet it allowed affidavits in support of the motion to be served till noon of Saturday, the 21st. Till these affidavits were all served, the defendants' counsel could not know the extent of the attack to be made, and therefore could not reasonably be expected to arrange the defence. More than this, they knew that the injunction in MCINTOSH's case prevented any movement in BELMONT's case, and it was not till Saturday, the 21st, that they were served with the papers on which the motion to vacate that injunction was to be made. This motion was of course the first to be met, and preparation for that must have occupied what was left of Saturday and Monday morning before the time of argument. It was, therefore, no wonder that they were not then prepared for the main argument. But more than all, they had a right to rely upon the adherence of the Court to its own established course of proceeding. The motions were entered on the calendar in their regular order, with a hundred cases or more preceding. If the regular and ordinary course had been adopted, they would have had several more days to prepare. It was a great surprise to find this cause suddenly advanced, and called before any other. Under these circumstances affidavits of surprise and lack of preparation were hardly needed. But there are affidavits, nevertheless, of the most positive character, that the defendants were taken by surprise and unprepared. Preparation was required both as to the facts and the law. It was unreasonable to expect that in a controversy of so great magnitude, extending over so long a time and embracing so many details, any counsel could, under the circumstances stated, make the necessary preparation for the full exhibition of the facts and the proper arrangement of the arguments. They had a right to expect that at least their regular time would not be shortened. It was shortened, however. That surprised them; and even if according to the strictest rules, they ought to have been ready, it was at least a mistake, and a pardonable one on their part, not to have been ready. The principal defendant is a corporation in whose capital is invested the property of a great many persons. Any neglect of the officers, if neglect there be, to present the whole of their case, would operate to the disadvantage, not only of themselves, but of many innocent persons. For the sake of these, if for no others, ample opportunity should have been afforded for the investigation of the facts and the law on which the right to administer the enormous property of this corporation must be made to depend. A motion of this magnitude was sure to be carried by one party or the other, upon appeal, to the General Term. There the case could be heard only upon the affidavits used in the first instance. No opportunity is there afforded to supply defects in proof. This consideration makes it the more important that nothing material to a just decision should be shut out from the first discussion.

Considering, therefore, the relations of the parties, their respective positions, personal and representative, the magnitude of the interests involved, and the consequences of a decision, it was reasonable in the defendants' counsel to expect a little further time to present the case of their clients. Saying this does not imply the least reflection upon the learned Judge who refused the delay. His uprightness in all things, his firmness in the discharge of his judicial duties, his uniform courtesy on the bench, and his painstaking solicitude to see that justice is done to every one, are known to all; and to none more than to the counsel who signs this brief. Nothing more is meant than that he erred, as all men may err. Nor was the error strange. The charges in the complaint were of such monstrous wrongs, and made with such circumstantial detail, that, at the first blush, it seemed incredible that they should have been made without cause. And it was only upon careful analysis, and after comparison with opposing proofs, that they could be seen to be without justification. For all these reasons, the defendants submit that a case is presented, in which not only is a reargument proper, but in which a denial of it would work great injustice.

Third—Upon the reargument thus shown to be required, additional affidavits and other papers being read, counsel read the following as a reason why the order appointing Mr. DAVIES should be discharged.

I. If a receiver were proper at all, Mr. DAVIES should not be that receiver, because:

1. He has no knowledge of railway management. Some acquaintance with the business of railways must be considered necessary to the person who is to manage them. Mr. DAVIES, however respectable and worthy as a lawyer and as a judge, is no more competent to administer the affairs of the Erie Railway than he is to command a frigate or lead an army. If the only purpose of the receivership were to wind up the concern there might be some show of reason in appointing him to the service; but to carry on the traffic, keep the road in repair, lay down new rails, maintain the connections, compete for goods and passengers, are not duties for which he is qualified, and to put them upon him is to invite disorder and loss.

2. If he were fully competent, his sympathies and his interests are opposed to the maintenance of the rights of the Company and the stockholders, in most material respects. He was the counsel for the Vanderbilt interest in the late litigation. That interest was striving, and it is fair to presume is still striving, to make the rival lines of the Hudson River and Central outstrip the Erie, in the competition for Western traffic. He cannot be expected to espouse the cause of the Erie Railway against his late clients. Nor can he be supposed to be even indifferent between the two. It is idle to say that he was retained and paid by BLOODGOOD. Everybody conversant with the litigation, and especially the judges who hear, and are to hear this case, know that BLOODGOOD was the mere tender and instrument of SCHELL, as the latter was the tender and instrument of VANDERBILT. Moreover, the settlement made last July, a most flagitious transaction, is now in process of investigation before the Courts. Suits are pending against VANDERBILT, SCHELL and WORK, to make them refund large sums of money. Is Mr. DAVIES a fit person to take charge of those suits? Will he prosecute his late clients with earnestness, to make them refund money out of which, we are all certain, SCHELL repaid BLOODGOOD whatever BLOODGOOD paid Mr. DAVIES? If, therefore, there were to be a receiver, and the order so far were to be maintained, Mr. DAVIES should not be the person.

II. But there should be no receiver. No case is made for one. To retain the order for the appointment would now, after the light thrown upon the case by the present evidence, be grievous error. The appointment was sought, and is defended on the sole ground of mismanagement. There is no insolvency, actual or threatened. There is no mortgage in process of foreclosure. There is no lien to be asserted. The sole ground, I repeat, is mismanagement. This mismanagement is said to consist in: First—Using the funds of the Company to procure a reëlection. Second—Premature closing of the books for the same purpose. Third—Issuing new stock to be voted upon to the same end. Fourth—Using the funds of the Company in real estate speculations for private benefit. Fifth—Changing the by-laws in order to retain office. Sixth—Altering the books with fraudulent intent. Seventh—Secreting the money of the Company, or removing it to Canada. Eighth—Issuing stock beyond the prescribed amount. Ninth—Locking up the proceeds. The mismanagement, it must be borne in mind, is charged to be the act of three of the directors, Messrs. GOULD, FISK, and LANE, out of seventeen, the complaint against the remaining fourteen being that they are too much under the influence of the three. Council then spoke of these charges and the proofs to repel them. He said:

1. That if the charges were all true, as alleged, even then they would not make out a case for a general receiver, and for three reasons: One, that such a receiver cannot be appointed at the suit of a stockholder; the second, that mismanagement alone does not furnish a sufficient reason for appointing the receiver; and the third, that the mismanagement alleged in this case was of three only out of seventeen directors.

2. The Court has no jurisdiction in an action by a stockholder, to appoint a receiver of the property and franchises of the Company. This has been already adjudged in the cases of Ballou *vs.* Eddy, (Mss.;) Howe *vs.* Dewel, 43 Barb., 504; Latimer *vs.* Eddy, 46 Barb., 61; and Robertson *vs.* Bullions, 11 N. Y., 243.

He was not now speaking of the case where a particular fund, charged with a trust, or subject to a lien, is in the possession of a corporation. There the fund may be taken into the charge of the Court, by virtue of its general jurisdiction over cases of trusts. If our municipal corporation, the City of New-York, were trustee of a special fund, and were about to commit a breach of trust in respect to it, they would admit that not only might the City be enjoined, but that a receiver of the fund might be appointed. Yet the lawyer would be laughed at, who should argue that a receiver might be appointed to carry on the City Government, no matter how many breaches of trust the fiscal officers of the City might commit, or into what crimes the Aldermen might fall. The principles thus applicable to public corporations, are, in a certain sense at least, applicable to private ones. It is no part of the functions of a Court of Equity to administer the Government of corporations, public or private. If the shareholders elect improper managers, it is not the province of the Courts to elect others in their places. Whatever control the Court has over the internal administration, the machinery of corporations is derived from the statute, and that statute most manifestly confines the right of interference to cases where either the State, or a general manager of the corporation, or a creditor, invokes its power. Counsel then contended that mismanagement is not alone the cause for the appointment of a receiver, and that if the three directors complained of have done wrong let them be removed. He then entered into a long description of the Erie Railway, its resources, &c., and having waived the distinction between the charges as affecting all the directors, or as affecting only three of them, said it would stand upon the proofs as exhibited in the affidavits and other papers produced on either side:

First—That no one of the charges enumerated is true, except that of issuing convertible bonds and converting them into stock, and that one not as stated in the complaint; and,

Second—That the action brought in the interest, not of the stockholders, but of speculators, in pursuance of a combination to affect the price of the stock, and at the risk and expense of three persons who were the main instruments in making the profligate settlements of last July. Counsel then referred to the deposition of Mr. FISK in one of the morning papers, namely, that witness has been informed and believes "that the said action of AUGUST BELMONT is prosecuted under an arrangement whereby one-half of the expense of the proceedings is to be paid by DANIEL DREW, and the other half by FRANK WORK and RICHARD SCHELL in equal portions." This charge, Mr. FIELD remarked, was not denied by BELMONT. It should be received as true. And here the case of Filder *vs.* London and Brighton Railroad Company, (1 Hem. & Miller, 489,) before Vice Chancellor WOOD, now Lord Chancellor of England, is applicable and decisive. Counsel maintained that DREW, WORK and SCHEL are the real plaintiffs. After adverting to the charge of their locking up a part of the proceeds of the bonds, and keeping the notes on hand instead of making a general deposit of them in the banks, he proceeded to discuss the charge of issuing convertible bonds, and converting them into stock. He confined himself to the question of power, and read the following from his brief: "The solution depends upon the true construction of the tenth subdivision of the twenty-eighth section of the General Railway act of 1850. By section 1 of that act, it is provided that the articles of association must state 'the amount of the capital stock of the Company, which shall not be less than $10,000 for every mile of road constructed or proposed to be constructed.' By section 4, the directors 'may, in case the whole of the capital stock is not before subscribed, open books of subscription to fill up the capital stock of the Company, in such places, and after giving such notice as they may decide expedient, and may continue to receive subscriptions until the whole capital stock is subscribed.' By section 7 the directors 'may require the subscribers to the capital stock of the Company to pay the amount by them respectively subscribed, in such a manner, and in such installments as they may deem proper.' By section 9, in case the stock 'is found to be insufficient for constructing and operating its road, such Company may, with the concurrence of two-thirds in amount of all its stockholders, increase its capital stock from time to time to any amount required for the purposes aforesaid.' By section 23, the directors 'may, by a vote of two-thirds of their whole number, at any time, alter or change their route, or any part of the route of their road, if it shall appear to them that the line can be improved thereby.' By section 28, sub. 10, every corporation formed under this act shall have power 'from time to time to borrow such sums of money as may be necessary for completing and finishing, or operating their railroad, and to issue and dispose of their bonds for any amount so borrowed, and to mortgage their corporate property and franchises to secure the payment of any debt contracted by the Company for the purposes aforesaid; and the directors of the Company may confer on any holder of any bond issued for money borrowed as aforesaid, the right to convert the principal due or owing thereon into stock of said Company, at any time not exceeding ten years from the date of the bond, under such regulations as the directors may see fit to accept.'" He asserted they had the power to borrow money for the following reasons: 1. Because such is the natural sense of the words used in section 28. 2. Because in any other sense they would be superfluous. 3. Because such has been their construction by the Legislature. 4. Because such has been the practical construction by the Engineer's Department, by railway managers, and by the public in general. As to the construction which the Legislature has given the provision, he read the following history of it:

The tenth subdivision of the twenty-eighth section of the General Railroad act, came from an old act relating to the Mohawk and Hudson Railroad. That Company was chartered in 1826 (Ch. 253) with a capital of $300,000, and the privilege of increasing it to $500,000. In 1832 (Ch. 79) the Company was authorized to increase its stock by section 4, $100,000, and by section 14, $150,000. In 1834, Feb. 28, (Ch. 20,) it was authorized to make a further increase of $250,000, or to borrow that sum, as the directors might elect, and if in the former alternative the whole amount of stock was not subscribed, then to borrow to make up the deficiency. It seems, however, that the peculiar language of the act left it doubtful whether the directors, after having elected to advertise for subscriptions to stock, could, when they came to borrow, make the bonds convertible into stock. This doubt was removed by the act of March 19, 1834, (Ch. 39,) which declared that the Company might "allow the lender or lenders of the money so borrowed, at his or their option, to convert the amount thereof into stock of the said Company at par, within two years from the passage of this act." These two acts together allowed the issue of convertible bonds, and the exchange of stock therefor, in addition to the capital fixed by previous acts. When the bonds thus authorized were all issued and converted, the capital stood at $1,000,000. No statute was afterward passed specially authorizing or even mentioning an increase. But at the time, 1853, when the Company was merged in the Central Railway, its actual paid-up capital had increased to $1,535,800. How was this increase effected? On the 11th of May, 1837, another act was passed, (Ch. 383,) authorizing the Company to "borrow a sum of money, not exceeding $100,000, at such time or times, and in such amounts as the directors of said Company shall deem most advantageous for its interests, and to pledge or mortgage the property and estate belonging to said Company, or any part thereof, for the repayment of the sum or sums so borrowed with interest, and the said directors may confer upon the holder of any bond or evidence of indebtedness they may issue, for any money so borrowed, the right to convert the principal due thereon into stock of the said Company at par, at any time not exceeding two years from the date of the said bond or obligation, under such regulations as the said directors may see fit to adopt." This was the Pattern act, from which the tenth subdivision of section 28 of the General Railroad law was derived. In 1838, Ch. 224, the Company was authorized to construct a new section in Schenectady, and this provision was introduced: Section 16. "The directors of said Company are hereby authorized to borrow, from time to time, such sums of money as they may deem necessary for any of the purposes aforesaid on the bonds of said Company, and secure the same by a pledge or mortgage of any part of the property and estate of the said Company, and the directors may confer upon the holder of any such bond or evidence of indebtedness, the right to convert the amount thereof into stock of the said Company, at such price and on such terms as may be agreed upon." By chap. 91 of the laws of 1847, the same Company was authorized to borrow, not exceeding $250,000, at such times and in such amounts as the directors should deem most advantageous "for the purpose of paying the debts now owing by said Company and of relaying their railroad with a heavy rail;" and "the directors" were authorized to "confer on the holders of any bonds or evidence of indebtedness" * * * "issued for money so borrowed, the right to convert the principal so due thereon into stock of said Company," within five years from the date of the bond or obligation. This act changed the name of the Company to "The Albany and Schenectady Railroad Company." Section 3. By chapter 29 of the laws of 1851, the Company was further authorized to borrow, with the same privilege of conversion, a sum not exceeding $300,000, of which $250,000 were to be applied to the payment of outstanding bonds, and $50,000 to complete a double track with heavy rails. No further act was passed in relation to this Company till the consolidation of 1853. Counsel said the history of the provision is conclusive of the general question. With regard to the authority given to the directors of railways to increase the capital without the concurrence of the stockholders, and in cases where the needs of the corporation were not so pressing, as in the cases provided for by section 28 of the General Railway act, he quoted several acts, as follows: Chapter 272 of the Laws of 1847. "Any railroad company whose track is now laid in whole or in part with the flat bar rail, on which steam power is used in propelling cars are hereby authorized to increase their capital stock, or to borrow on the security of said road, its appurtenances and franchises, as the directors of such Company may determine," for the purpose of relaying the track with heavy rail. By chapter 405, of the laws of the same year, this authority to increase the capital, was extended so as to permit it to be done, for the making of a second track. An act passed in 1849, ch. 271, authorized any Company borrowing money for relaying its track with heavy rail, to issue new stock as fast as it paid off the loan, and divide such stock among its shareholders. By the act of 1850, chap. 105, in relation to the Lewiston Railroad Company, the directors were authorized "to increase its capital stock to such an amount," as should be necessary to change the line of the road. In 1851, by chapter 275, it was provided that "the respective Boards of Directors of the Buffalo and Niagara Falls Railroad Company and the Lewiston Railroad Company, may unite the stock, property and rights of the respective companies, and form the two into one corporation." Counsel read many other acts, bearing on the same subject. He said: "The capital stock of the said new corporation was fixed pursuant to an act of the Legislature, at the aggregate sum of $22,858,600, to be divided into 228,586 shares of $100 each, such capital being subject to be increased by the conversion into stock of the principal of the said outstanding bonds from time to time, so that the same shall not, when all the said bonds shall be converted, exceed the sum of $23,085,600, to be divided into 230,856 shares of $100 each." Counsel then examined the statutes, to show that, besides the convertible bonds thus provided for, the actual paid-up capital of the ten corporations, parties to the consolidation agreement, was largely in excess of that fixed by their charters. He said it was remarkable that most of the railway undertakings of this country were begun with inadequate capital. After mentioning a few of them, he concluded by stating that the annual reports of the different railways of the State, made to the Engineer's Department, show many instances of convertible bonds issued when the stock was already taken. These reports have been arranged, tabulated and submitted to the Legislature. Not a word of dissent was heard from any quarter till the Erie litigation began last Spring. In the report made by the State Engineer to the Legislature in 1867, the stock of the Erie Railway Corporation is mentioned as *not fixed by the charter. Its increase* from time to time through the issue of convertible bonds, is clearly set forth in the different yearly reports.

Judge CARDOZO said the arguments of counsel should be handed to him, and that, after consulting the authorities, he would give his opinion in a few days.

The Court shortly after adjourned.

Board of Aldermen.

The Board met at 2 P. M. yesterday, Mr. COMAN in the chair. The following resolution was offered and laid over:

Resolved, That the compensation now allowed the Clerk of the Common Council for preparing the minutes of the Board for publication, be and the same is hereby increased to the sum of $1,000 per annum, the amount now paid for the service being as fixed by the resolution of Sept. 3, 1839, and totally inadequate compensation for the labor performed.

The Board then took a recess, and on reassembling, after the transaction of some routine business, adjourned to Monday next.

SUDDEN DEATHS.—LUCY ANN KENBRANT, aged 6 weeks, died suddenly yesterday at No. 217 East Fifty-ninth-street....An unknown man, aged 23, who had been picked up in the Bowery, near Houston-street, on Friday night, died yesterday from convulsions. The remains were placed in the Morgue for identification and inquest....JOHN MAGUIRE, aged 40 years and a native of Ireland, who was admitted to Bellevue Hospital a few days ago in consequence of his having been injured by a dirt cart falling upon him, died yesterday at that institution....The infant child of MARY MAY, aged 5 days, died yesterday at Bellevue Hospital, in consequence of injuries sustained by the mother falling upon her....An infant died suddenly yesterday at No. 11 Eldridge-street....MARY A. DIAL, an infant, also died suddenly at No. 632 Second-avenue. The Coroner will hold inquests in all of these cases....LINNES YALE, Jr., a resident of Sheldon's Falls, Mass., was found dead in his bed yesterday, at French's Hotel. The remains were removed to No. 224 West Thirty-eighth-street, where an inquest will be held by Coroner FLYNN....An inquest will be held to-day by Coroner KEENAN, at No. 494 Broome-street, over the remains of PETER ALEXANDER JOACHIM, a Frenchman, aged 57, and a cabinet-maker, who died suddenly yesterday.

DRY GOODS.

HOLIDAY GOODS, AT REDUCED PRICES. DOG-SKIN GLOVES, SCARFS AND TIES, HOSIERY AND GLOVES, With an immense variety of SHIRTS, COLLARS, and UNDERCLOTHING. An elegant variety of NEW GOODS, at extremely low prices. UNION ADAMS, NO. 637 BROADWAY.

THE LAST WEEK

STRANG & ADRIANCE,

No. 355 BROADWAY, bet. Leonard and Franklin, WILL CONTINUE FOR ONE WEEK LONGER to offer still greater inducements to

CLOSE OUT

THEIR RETAIL STOCK AT THAT TIME. ON SATURDAY, PARTICULAR ATTENTION will be paid to

SALES OF REMNANTS

of ALL CLASSES OF GOODS, such as SILKS, CLOTHS, HOUSEKEEPING GOODS, MOURNING GOODS, &c., &c. All who want EXTRAORDINARY BARGAINS ARE INVITED TO CALL.

AT GAYNOR'S, CORSETS, JUST RECEIVED, A special importation OF OUR 100-BONE CORSETS, for large ladies, from 15 to 24 inches long; Also, an ELEGANT VARIETY of our regular COUTILLE AND WOVEN CORSETS. Can suit all figures. SKIRTS, PANNIERS, (SUPPORTERS,) BRACES AND PADS, In endless variety, all at most reasonable prices.

GAYNOR'S,

No. 765 Broadway, near 9th-st., and No. 824 Broadway, corner of 12th-st.

AT GAYNOR'S, ELEGANT EVENING AND PARTY DRESSES, In SWISS and ORGANDY MUSLINS. FULL DRESS TRAIN SKIRTS, In SWISS, LAWN AND CAMBRIC. HAIR-CLOTH, CROSS-BARRED AND CORDED CRINOLINE. TRAINS AND SHORT SKIRTS, to be worn without hoops. PANNIER AND HOOP SKIRTS, LATEST STYLE.

GAYNOR,

No. 765 Broadway, near 9th-st., and No. 824 Broadway, corner of 12th-st.

A. T. STEWART & CO. DURING THIS WEEK, WILL CONTINUE TO REPLENISH ALL THEIR POPULAR STOCKS OF SILKS, POPLINS, DRESS GOODS, MERINO CLOTHS, CALICOES, HOUSEKEEPING GOODS, LADIES' AND CHILDREN'S UNDERCLOTHING, CHILDREN'S AND MISSES' SACQUES, BOYS' GARIBALDI, BISMARCK AND DRESS SUITS, WHICH, ON ACCOUNT OF PRICE, QUALITY AND STYLE, HAVE ATTRACTED SO MUCH ATTENTION. ALSO THE BALANCE OF THE LADIES' HEAVY BEAVER CLOTH SACQUES, AT $5 EACH. WALKING SUITS AT $10, $12, $15 AND $20 EACH, &c., &c. BROADWAY, 4TH-AV., 9TH AND 10TH STS.

A. T. STEWART & CO. WILL OPEN, ON MONDAY, DEC. 28, A LARGE ASSORTMENT OF PARIS AND VIENNA FANCY GOODS, SOAPS, PERFUMERY, ODOR CASES, BRUSHES, LEATHER BAGS, NEEDLE CASES, PINCUSHIONS, WORKBOXES, WRITING DESKS, INKSTANDS, PEN-TRAYS, GLOVE AND HANDKERCHIEF BOXES, PAPER HOLDERS, ELEGANTLY-EMBROIDERED SLIPPERS, SCREENS, GILT STANDS, &c., &c., FOR HOLIDAY PRESENTS, which they offer at EXTREMELY LOW PRICES. BROADWAY, 4TH-AV., 9TH AND 10TH STS.

FOR HOLIDAY PRESENTS. HANDSOME DRESS GOODS, HANDSOME BALMORAL SKIRTS, FINE BLACK ALPACAS, CASHMERES AND DELAINES, MERRIMACK PRINTS, ENGLISH PRINTS. GENTS' AND LADIES' HANDKERCHIEFS, GENTS' AND LADIES' GLOVES, GENTS' AND LADIES' UNDERGARMENTS, ALL WOOL BLANKETS, CLOTHS FOR CLOAKS, CASSIMERES FOR PANTS. The above goods comprise the best makes and styles in the market. They have been bought expressly for the HOLIDAY trade at GREATLY reduced prices, and will be sold at a slight advance from cost. FOSTER BROTHERS, No. 187 8th-av., and FOSTER BROTHERS, No. 272 Bleecker-st.

FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE.—STOCK OF fancy goods, trimmings and Yankee notions will be sold at a bargain, or exchanged for a stock of goods in a country store. Inquire at No. 748 8th-av., between 31st and 32d sts., or address FANCY GOODS STORE, care of Mr. George McIntosh, No. 748 8th-av.

DRY GOODS.

NEW-YEAR GIFTS!

LAKE & M'CREERY,

NO. 471 BROADWAY, PREPARATORY TO REMOVING TO THEIR NEW STORE, CORNER BROADWAY AND 11TH-ST., OFFER SPECIAL INDUCEMENTS FOR THOSE WISHING TO PURCHASE GOODS FOR THE HOLIDAYS. HAVING REDUCED THE BALANCE OF THEIR STOCK OF FALL AND WINTER

DRY GOODS,

CONSISTING OF RICH DRESS SILKS, VELVETS, DRESS GOODS, LACES, HOSIERY, CLOTHS, CLOAKS AND SHAWLS. ALSO A SPLENDID STOCK OF HOUSEKEEPING GOODS AT A

GREAT REDUCTION.

SUGDEN & BRADBURY,

(LATE WITH LORD & TAYLOR,) Nos. 312 and 314 Bowery, Near Bleecker-st.

In order to offer **Special Inducement** During the coming holiday week, have made

A FURTHER REDUCTION

In the price of CLOAKS, SHAWLS, SILKS and FANCY GOODS; Also, LACE AND MUSLIN CURTAINS, CORNICES AND GENERAL HOUSE-FURNISHING GOODS. We solicit a call from purchasers, as our stock possesses the advantage of being new this season, and our prices less than those of any Broadway house.

CLOSING OUT!

A TERRIBLE SACRIFICE.

1 Case of Crepe Cloth, 75c. per yard; former price $1 25 per yard.
30 Pieces of Cretonne Cloth, $1 25 per yard; former price $1 75 per yard.
28 Pieces Poplin Alpaca, 45c. per yard; former price 70c. per yard.
30 Pieces Poplin Alpaca 50c. per yard; former price 75c. per yard.
27 Pieces of Lustre Cords, 70c. per yard; former price $1 per yard.
24 Pieces Lustre Cords, 80c. per yard; former price $1 12 1-2 per yard.
20 Pieces Lustre Cords, 90c. per yard; former price $1 25 per yard.
100 Pieces Black Silk, $2, $2 50 and $3 per yard. Just one-third below their real value, at

JACKSON'S MOURNING STORE,

NO. 551 Broadway, OPPOSITE TIFFANY & CO.

N. B.—GREAT BARGAINS IN ASTRAKHAN AND BEAVER CLOTHS.

R. H. MACY,

CLOSING BALANCE OF **HOLIDAY GOODS,** AT VERY LOW PRICES. R. H. MACY, 14th-st. and 6th-av.

LACE CURTAIN DEPARTMENT. ARNOLD, CONSTABLE & CO., Are offering, for the holidays, GREAT BARGAINS IN LACE AND NOTTINGHAM CURTAINS, VESTIBULE LACES, AND DRAPERY MUSLINS. The latest designs manufactured this season. ALSO, A FINE LINE OF EMBROIDERED AND EMBOSSED TABLE AND PIANO COVERS, CORNICES, BANDS, &c., &c. Canal, corner Mercer-st.

LACE DEPARTMENT. RICH POINT LACE AND APPLIQUE SETS, FICHUS, MOUCHOIRS, BARBES, FLOUNCES, COIFFURES, COLLARS, AND TRIMMING LACES. POINT, POINT APPLIQUE, AND CHANTILLY LACE SHAWLS. The finest stock in the City, and imported EXPRESSLY FOR HOLIDAY PRESENTS. ALSO, A splendid stock of EMBROIDERED, INITIAL, HEMMED AND COLORED BORDERED HANDKERCHIEFS IN BOXES SUITABLE FOR PRESENTS. N. B.—Initialing done to order at short notice. ARNOLD, CONSTABLE & CO., Canal, corner Mercer-st.

O'SULLIVAN & GREIG,

NO. 771 BROADWAY, CORNER OF 9TH-ST. Just received per steamer AUSTRALASIAN, ONE CASE **Real Astrakhan Cloaks.** VERY FINE. ALSO, MUFFS, HATS AND BOAS TO MATCH AND WILL BE OFFERED DURING THE HOLIDAYS AT DECIDED BARGAINS.

AT GAYNOR'S, SELLING OF FRENCH WALKING SUITS at a great sacrifice, to close that branch of the business. GAYNOR'S, No. 765 Broadway.

BARGAINS IN LADIES' UNDERCLOTHING OF EVERY DESCRIPTION. Also INFANTS' AND CHILDREN'S APPAREL AT EXTREMELY LOW PRICES, PRIOR TO THE TAKING OF OUR SEMI-ANNUAL INVENTORY. LADIES' CHEMISES $1 50 and upward. LADIES' TUCKED SKIRTS $2 25 and upward. LADIES' NIGHT ROBES $3 50 and upward. LADIES' PANTALETS, (TUCKED,) $1 75 and upward. LADIES' PANTALETS, (RUFFLED,) $2 25 and upward. LADIES' PANTALETS, (EMBROIDERED,) $2 50 and upward. MORNING ROBES, &c., &c., at equally low prices. Also, AN ELEGANT ASSORTMENT OF EVENING DRESSES IN SILK AND FANCY TARLATANS. LADIES' HATS at $5 each and upward. INFANTS' CAPS AND CHILDREN'S BONNETS. THE CHOICEST NOVELTIES OF THE SEASON. A. T. STEWART & CO., BROADWAY, 4TH-AV., 9TH AND 10TH STS.

A. T. STEWART & CO. Have just received SOME ELEGANT NOVELTIES IN EMBROIDERIES, LACES, LACE SHAWLS, REAL INDIA CAMELS' HAIR SHAWLS AND SCARFS, SILKS, EMBROIDERED SILK AND SATIN ROBES, PARIS-MADE VELVET, SILK AND POPLIN SUITS, VELVET AND CLOTH SACQUES, EXTRA ELEGANT; ASTRAKHAN SACQUES AND CLOAKS FROM $40 UPWARD; RUSSIA SABLE, MINK AND ERMINE CAPES, MUFFS, CUFFS, &C. VERY CHOICE, imported expressly for HOLIDAY PRESENTS. BROADWAY, 4TH-AV., 9TH AND 10TH STS.

FINANCIAL.

HATCH, FOOTE & CO

BANKERS,

AND DEALERS IN

GOVERNMENT SECURITIES, GOLD, STOCKS, &c.

Buy and Sell all issues of

U. S. BONDS

at MARKET RATES.

No. 12 Wall-st., New-York.

FOR SALE,

ROCHESTER CITY SEVEN PER CENT. FIRST MORTGAGE WATERWORKS COMPANY SINKING FUND BONDS, DUE 1887, INTEREST PAYABLE JANUARY AND JULY, BEING A FIRST-CLASS SECURITY AT A REDUCTION BELOW PAR, AND PAYING A LARGE RATE OF INTEREST ON THE INVESTMENT. A LIMITED AMOUNT FOR SALE BY

ALBERT H. NICOLAY,
STOCK BROKER AND AUCTIONEER,
NO. 43 PINE-ST., NEW-YORK.

FIRST MORTGAGE BONDS OF THE CALIFORNIA PACIFIC RAILROAD.

PRINCIPAL AND SEVEN PER CENT. INTEREST PAYABLE IN GOLD AT THE NATIONAL PARK BANK, NEW-YORK.
COUPONS PAID JANUARY AND JULY.

The Road is completed from the waters of the Bay of San Francisco to Sacramento, and fully equipped with first-class rolling stock. The net receipts are more than three times the interest on the whole issue of bonds. We believe them to be one of the best investments offered. A limited amount for sale at par and accrued interest, in currency.

TURNER BROTHERS, Bankers,
No. 14 Nassau-st.

THE COUPONS OF THE FIRST MORTGAGE BONDS OF THE

UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD CO.

DUE JAN. 1, 1869.

Will be paid on and after that date,

IN GOLD COIN, FREE OF GOVERNMENT TAX,

At the Company's office, No. 20 Nassau-st., New-York.

Schedules with twenty or more coupons will now be received for examination, and gold checks for the same will be delivered Dec. 31.

JOHN J. CISCO, Treasurer, New-York.

OFFICE OF THE CALIFORNIA PACIFIC RAILROAD CO., No. 74 BROADWAY, NEW-YORK, Dec. 18, 1868.

THE COUPONS OF THE FIRST MORTGAGE SEVEN PER CENT. BONDS OF THE CALIFORNIA PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY, due Jan. 1, 1869, will be paid in gold coin on presentation at the Park National Bank, on and after that date.

WM. F. ROELOFSON, Agent C. P. R. R.

BOWLES BROTHERS & CO.,

BANKERS AND COMMISSION MERCHANTS,
NO. 12 RUE DE LA PAIX, PARIS,
No. 19 William-st., New-York,
No. 66 State-st., Boston.

Make advances on American securities and cash coupons on demand. Bills on the United States or England, at sight or sold. Circular credits cashed.

Letters for Americans in Europe addressed to our care will be forwarded or delivered.

BROWN BROTHERS & CO.

NO. 59 WALL-ST.,

ISSUE COMMERCIAL AND TRAVELERS' CREDITS FOR USE IN THIS COUNTRY AND ABROAD.

AUGUST BELMONT & CO.

Issue Letters of Credit, for Travelers' use, on

MESSRS. ROTHSCHILD

in Paris, London, Frankfort-on-the-Main, Vienna, and their correspondents in all principal cities of Europe; also, make Telegraphic transfers on

CALIFORNIA AND EUROPE.

NOTICE.

OFFICE HOUSTON AND TEXAS CENTRAL RAILWAY COMPANY, No. 2d EXCHANGE-PLACE, NEW-YORK, Dec. 26, 1868.

The coupons of the First Mortgage Bonds of the Houston and Texas Central Railway Company, due Jan. 1, 1869, will be paid in Gold on and after that date, at the National City Bank, New-York.

D. H. PAIGE, Financial Agent.

$10,000 MARSHALL COUNTY, ILLINOIS bonds, 6 per cent. bonds.
$5,000 Jersey County, Illinois, 8 per cent. Bonds.
5,000 Lacon City, Illinois, 10 per cent. Bonds.
10,000 Scott Township, Illinois, 10 per cent. Bonds.
Interest on above bonds paid promptly, and will be sold to net purchaser 1@12 per cent. interest per annum. Racine, Madison City, Watertown, Kenosha and Milwaukee City (repudiated Bonds) wanted at highest market rates. GEO. C. DUNBAR, No. 7 Wall-st.

STATE OF MICHIGAN,
STATE TREASURER'S OFFICE,
LANSING, Dec. 25, 1868.

THE INTEREST DUE JAN. 1, 1869, ON the Bonds issued by the State of Michigan will be paid at that Metropolitan National Bank of the City of New-York.

The War Loan Bonds drawn for redemption Jan. 1, 1868, will be paid agreeable to notice of this payment given Oct. 1, 1868. EBENEZER O. GROSVENOR, State Treasurer.

OFFICE OF THE ATLANTIC MUTUAL INSURANCE CO., No. 51 WALL-ST., NEW-YORK, Dec. 16, 1868.

THE BOOKS OF THIS COMPANY WILL be closed on the 31st instant, in preparation of its annual statement. Persons holding policies on risks which shall have terminated during the year, prior to the 1st of January next, are requested to furnish an account of the premiums thereon, and a statement of all claims for return of premiums, to prevent discrepancies in the accounts. J. H. CHAPMAN, Secretary.

OFFICE OF THE METROPOLITAN GAS LIGHT CO., CORNER OF BROADWAY AND 42D-ST., NEW-YORK, Dec. 26, 1868.

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE STOCKholders of this Company, for the election of Directors, will be held at the office of the Company, Broadway, corner of 42d-st., on MONDAY, Jan. 11, 1869. Poll opened at 12 M. and closed at 2 P. M.

WM. MEIKLEHAM, Secretary.

THE BANK OF NEW-YORK, NATIONAL BANKING ASSOCIATION, NEW-YORK, Dec. 15, 1868.

THE ANNUAL ELECTION FOR DIRECTORS of this Bank will be held at the banking room on TUESDAY, the 19th day of January, 1869. Polls open from 12 M. to 1 P. M.

W. B. MEEKER, Cashier.

TENTH NATIONAL BANK, No. 25 BROAD-ST., CORNER EXCHANGE-PLACE, NEW-YORK, Dec. 11, 1868.

THE ANNUAL ELECTION FOR DIRECTORS of this Bank for the ensuing year will be held at the Banking-house, No. 25 Broad-st., corner Exchange-place, on TUESDAY, Jan. 12, 1869, between the hours of 12 M. and 1 o'clock P. M.

J. H. STOUT, Cashier.

MERCHANTS' NATIONAL BANK, NEW-YORK, Dec. 23, 1868.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS HAVE this day declared a semi-annual dividend of FIVE (5) PER CENT., free of tax, payable on and after Jan. 2, 1869. The transfer books will be closed from this date until Jan. 2, proximo.

R. McCARTER, Cashier.

MECHANICS' NATIONAL BANK, NEW-YORK, Dec. 19, 1868.

THE DIRECTORS HAVE THIS DAY declared a dividend of FIVE (5) PER CENT., free of tax, payable to the stockholders on and after the 2d of January next.

The transfer books will be closed until that date.

W. H. COX, Cashier.

THE NATIONAL PARK BANK OF NEW-YORK, Dec. 23, 1868.

THE ANNUAL ELECTION FOR DIRECTORS of this Bank will be held at the banking house Nos. 214 and 216 Broadway, on TUESDAY, Jan. 12, 1869, from 12 to 1 o'clock.

L. WORTH, Cashier.

THE CHATHAM NATIONAL BANK, NEW-YORK, Dec. 16, 1868.

THE ANNUAL ELECTION FOR DIRECtors of this Bank will be held at the Banking-room on TUESDAY, 12th of January next, between the hours of 12 M. and 1 P. M.

O. H. SCHREINER, Cashier.

NATIONAL BUTCHERS' AND DROVERS' BANK, NEW-YORK, Dec. 14, 1868.

THE ANNUAL ELECTION FOR DIRECTORS of this Bank will be held at the banking-house, No. 124 Bowery, on TUESDAY, Jan. 12, 1869, between the hours of 12 M. and 1 P. M.

G. G. BRINCKERHOFF, Cashier.

NATIONAL BROADWAY BANK, NEW-YORK, Dec. 21, 1868.

ELECTION.—THE ANNUAL ELECTION FOR directors of this bank will be held at the banking-house No. 237 Broadway, on TUESDAY, the 12th day of January ensuing, between the hours of 11 M. and 1 P. M.

J. L. EVERITT, Cashier.

STATE OF MISSOURI INTEREST.—NATIONAL BANK OF COMMERCE, in New-York, Dec. 24, 1868.—The coupons due 1st of January next from bonds issued or guaranteed by the State of Missouri, (except those issued to the Hannibal and St. Joseph Railroad,) will be paid on presentation at this bank after that date.

H. F. VAIL, Cashier.

EIGHTH NATIONAL BANK, NEW-YORK, Dec. 12, 1868.

THE ANNUAL ELECTION FOR DIRECtors of this bank will be held at the banking-house, No. 630 Broadway, on TUESDAY, Jan. 12, 1869, between the hours of 12 M. and 1 P. M.

CHAS. HUDSON, Cashier.

NATIONAL SHOE AND LEATHER BANK, NEW-YORK, Dec. 11, 1868.

THE ANNUAL ELECTION FOR DIRECtors of this bank will be held at the banking-house, Broadway and Chambers-st., on TUESDAY, Jan. 12, 1869, between the hours of 12 M. and 1 P. M.

J. M. CRANE, Cashier.

COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE, NASHVILLE, TENN., Dec. 22, 1868.

THE JANUARY INTEREST ON OUR Public Debt will be paid at the Fourth National Bank, New-York.

G. W. BLACKBURN, Comptroller.

MONEY TO LOAN ON BOND AND MORTgage. C. P. WYMAN, Attorney, &c., No. 3 Pine-st.

DIVIDENDS.

OFFICE OF THE PANAMA RAILROAD COMPANY, TONTINE BUILDINGS, No. 8 WALL-ST., NEW-YORK, Dec. 24, 1868.

FORTY-SEVENTH DIVIDEND. — THE Board of Directors have this day declared a dividend of Six (6) per Cent. out of the earnings of the Road for the three months ending 31st inst., and also Two (2) per Cent. out of the earnings of steamers, sailing vessels, tugs and launches, for the year 1868, both payable in gold, to the stockholders or their legal representatives, on and after the 5th of January next. Transfer books will be closed on the afternoon of the 26th inst., and reopened on the morning of the 7th prox.

HENRY SMITH, Treasurer.

THE IMPORTERS' AND TRADERS' NATIONAL BANK OF NEW-YORK, NEW-YORK, Dec. 23, 1868.

A DIVIDEND OF FIVE PER CENT OUT of the earnings of the past six months, free of all tax, has this day been declared by this Bank, payable on the 2d of January next, until which time the transfer books will remain closed.

E. H. PERKINS, Jr., Cashier.

THE TRADESMEN'S NATIONAL BANK, NEW-YORK, Dec. 18, 1868.

A DIVIDEND OF SIX PER CENT. WILL be paid on and after MONDAY, Jan. 4, 1869, free of tax. ANTHONY HALSEY, Cashier.

DIVIDENDS.

OFFICE HARTFORD AND NEW-HAVEN RAILROAD CO., HARTFORD, Dec. 17, 1868.

NOTICE.

A quarterly dividend of Three Dollars, free of Government tax, has been declared on each share of stock standing on the books the 26th day of December inst., by the Board of Directors of the Hartford and New-Haven Railroad Company, payable on SATURDAY, Jan. 2, 1869.

Stockholders in New-York will receive their dividend at the Union National bank.

The transfer-books will be closed from the 26th day of December to the 1d day of January, both inclusive.

S. P. CONNER, Secretary.

SIX PER CENT., FREE FROM GOVERNMENT TAX.

THIRD-AVENUE SAVINGS BANK, CORNER 3D-AV. AND 26TH-ST., NEW-YORK, Dec. 24, 1868.

DIVIDEND.—A Semi-annual Dividend, at the rate of SIX PER CENT. per annum, (free from Government tax,) on all sums from $1 to $5,000, will be paid on and after the third MONDAY in January.

Deposits made on or before Jan. 20 will draw interest from the 1st. Bank open daily from 10 A. M. to 3 P. M., and on MONDAY, WEDNESDAY and SATURDAY EVENINGS, from 6 to 8 o'clock.

SPENCER K. GREEN, President.
WM. B. BIBBINS, Secretary.

DRY DOCK SAVINGS BANK.

Nos. 341 and 343 East 4th-st.

On the 1st of January, 1869, an extra dividend of two per cent. for six months, and one per cent. for three months, will be paid to depositors entitled thereto.

ANDREW MILLS, President.
JAMES L. STEWART, Secretary.
NOV. 1, 1868.

OFFICE OF THE CLEVELAND AND TOLEDO RAILROAD COMPANY, CLEVELAND, Ohio, Dec. 5, 1868.

A DIVIDEND OF FOUR AND ONE-HALF (4½) Per Cent.—free from United States Government tax—will be paid to the stockholders of this Company, or to their legal representatives, on the 2d day of January next, at the office of the Farmers' Loan and Trust Company in the City of New-York.

The transfer-books will be closed at 2 o'clock P. M. of Saturday, 19th December instant, and reopened on the morning of Monday, 4th January, 1869.

WM. F. STAUNTON, Secretary.

OFFICE OF THE FARMERS' LOAN AND TRUST COMPANY, No. 26 EXCHANGE-PLACE, CORNER WILLIAM-ST., NEW-YORK, Dec. 22, 1868.

DIVIDEND.—A DIVIDEND OF FIVE PER Cent., free of Government tax, has this day been declared out of the profits of the last six months on the stock of this Company, payable on the 2d January, 1869. The Transfer-books will be closed from the 26th inst. to the 3d prox.

GEO. F. FITCH.

METROPOLITAN NATIONAL BANK, No. 108 BROADWAY, NEW-YORK, Dec. 18, 1868.

THE DIRECTORS OF THE METROpolitan National Bank have this day declared a semi-annual dividend of SIX (6) PER CENT., free of all tax, payable on the first MONDAY of January next.

The transfer-books will be closed from the 26th inst. to the 2d day of January, both inclusive.

J. H. STOUT, Cashier.

THE CHATHAM NATIONAL BANK, NEW-YORK, Dec. 19, 1868.

A SEMI-ANNUAL DIVIDEND OF EIGHT (8) per Cent. free of Government tax, has been this day declared by the Board of Directors, less the City tax against stockholders, payable on and after Jan. 2. The transfer book will remain closed from 23d inst. to day of payment inclusive.

O. H. SCHREINER, Cashier.

NATIONAL BUTCHERS' AND DROVERS' BANK, NEW-YORK, Dec. 19, 1868.

DIVIDEND.—A DIVIDEND OF FIVE PER Cent. has this day been declared, free of all taxes, from the profits of the current six months, payable on the 2d day of January next. The transfer books will be closed until the day of payment.

G. G. BRINKERHOFF, Cashier.

ATLANTIC NATIONAL BANK, BROOKLYN, Dec. 22, 1868.

A SEMI-ANNUAL DIVIDEND OF FIVE (5) per Cent. on the capital stock of this Bank, free of Government tax, has this day been declared out of the profits of the six months ending the 31st inst., payable on and after Jan. 2. By order of the Board.

OLIVER M. DENTON, Acting Cashier.

FOURTH NATIONAL BANK OF THE CITY OF NEW-YORK, NEW-YORK, Dec. 21, 1868.

THE DIRECTORS OF THIS BANK have this day declared a semi-annual dividend of Four (4) per Cent., free of all taxes, payable on and after Jan. 2, proximo.

The transfer books will be closed from the 24th inst. until Jan. 2.

B. SEAMAN, Cashier.

NATIONAL SHOE AND LEATHER BANK, NEW-YORK, Dec. 26, 1868.

A DIVIDEND OF FIVE PER CENT., free of Government tax, out of the earnings of the current six months, has this day been declared, payable on and after Jan. 2, 1869, until which date the transfer book will be closed.

J. M. CRANE, Cashier.

MERCHANTS' EXCHANGE NATIONAL BANK OF THE CITY OF NEW-YORK, Dec. 19, 1868.

DIVIDEND.—A SEMI-ANNUAL DIVIDEND of FIVE (5) PER CENT. has been declared, FREE OF ALL TAXES, payable on and after MONDAY, 4th January next.

The transfer books will be closed from 22d inst. to 4th January.

E. J. OAKLEY, Cashier.

SAVINGS BANKS.

IRVING SAVINGS INSTITUTION, No. 96 WARREN-ST., NEW-YORK, Dec. 22, 1868.

The Trustees of this Institution have declared the usual semi-annual dividend at the rate of Six Per Cent. per annum on all sums from $1 to $5,000, which have been on deposit for six months or more on the 1st of Jan. 1, payable on and after the 18th of January. Interest not withdrawn will be added to the principal, and bear interest from Jan. 1.

Bank open daily from 10 A. M. to 3 P. M.

WALTER W. CONCKLIN, President.
VANDERBILT L. BUXTON, Secretary.

METROPOLITAN SAVINGS BANK, Nos. 1 and 3 3d-av., New-York, opposite Cooper Institute. SIX PER CENT. INTEREST free from Government tax. DEPOSITS of ONE DOLLAR and UPWARDS from $5 to $5,000. Deposits of one dollar received.

INTEREST COMMENCES JAN. 1.

The usual DIVIDEND at the rate of SIX PER CENT. per annum will be paid to depositors on and after Jan. 20; or, if not withdrawn, will be credited to the account, and draw interest from the 1st the same as a deposit.

ISAAC T. SMITH, President.

T. W. LILLIE, Secretary.

ATLANTIC SAVINGS BANK, CHATHAM-SQUARE AND BOWERY, Dec. 22, 1868.

The Board of Trustees of the Atlantic Savings Bank have ordered that a quarterly and half-yearly dividend at the rate of

SEVEN PER CENT. PER ANNUM

on all deposits entitled thereto be paid on and after MONDAY, Jan. 18, 1869, out of the earnings of the Bank for the past six months.

HARRISON HALL, President.
C. D. BAILEY, Treasurer.
JOSEPH F. COOPER, Secretary.

MARKET SAVINGS BANK, NO. 82 NASSAU-ST., NEW-YORK.

DIVIDEND.—A semi-annual dividend at the rate of SIX PER CENT. per annum, (free of Government tax,) will be paid depositors, on all sums entitled thereto, on and after MONDAY, Jan. 18.

INTEREST on all sums withdrawn will draw interest as principal from Jan. 1.

DEPOSITS made NOW will draw interest from Jan. 1, at the rate of SIX PER CENT., free of Government tax.

WM. VAN NAME, President.
HENRY R. CONKLIN, Secretary.

All money deposited now will draw interest from January 1.

THIRD-AV. SAVINGS BANK, CORNER 3D-AV. AND 26TH-ST.

SIX PER CENT. INTEREST paid, free from Government tax, on all sums from $1 to $5,000.

Bank open daily from 10 A. M. to 3 P. M., and on MONDAY, WEDNESDAY and SATURDAY EVENINGS, from 6 to 8 o'clock.

DRY DOCK SAVINGS BANK.

Nos. 341 and 343 East 4th-st.

Interest allowed on deposits made on Jan. 7, 1869, for a full quarter, on any sum or sums of $1,000 and under. Five per cent. per annum on sums over $1,000.

ANDREW MILLS, President.
Nov. 1, 1868. JAS. L. STEWART, Secretary.

UNION DIME SAVINGS BANK, Nos. 396 and 398 Canal-st., corner of Laight. SIX PER CENT. Interest on $5 to $5,000. ASSETS, $5,047,045 68.

CITIZENS' SAVING BANK—SOUTHWEST corner of Bowery and Canal-st., NEW-YORK, Dec. 20, 1868.

1869—JANUARY INTEREST.—The regular semi-annual interest at the rate of six per cent. per annum (free from Government tax) will be paid on and after Thursday, Jan. 21, on all sums of $5 and upward, which have been on deposit for three or six months previous to the 1st of January. Interest not withdrawn will be added to the original deposit, and bear interest from the 1st of January. Money deposited now will commence to bear interest from the 1st of January.

Bank open every day for the reception and payment of money from 10 to 3, and also on the evenings of Monday, Wednesday and Friday, from 5 to 7.

Bank books in English, German and French.

GEORGE FOLSOM, President.
SEYMOUR A. BUNCE, Secretary.

MECHANICS' AND TRADERS' SAVINGS INSTITUTION, No. 283 Bowery, near Houston-st.—Six per cent. interest, (free from taxes allowed on all sums of from $5 to $10,000. Deposits made on or before Jan. 2 will draw interest from Jan. 1. Open daily from 10 A. M. to 3 P. M., and on MONDAYS and WEDNESDAYS from 10 to 7.

GERMAN SPOKEN.

ALFRED T. CONKLIN, President.
HENRY C. FISHER, Secretary.

BROADWAY SAVINGS INSTITUTION, No. 237 Broadway, entrance in Park-place.—Interest on deposits entitled thereto, for the six months ending Dec. 31, at the rate of SIX per cent. per annum, on all sums of $5 and upward (free from Government tax,) will be paid on and after MONDAY, Jan. 18, 1869.

FRANCIS P. SCHOALS, President.
WADE B. WORRALL, Sec. PETER CUMMING, Asst.

BUSINESS CHANCES.

$10,000.—AN OPPORTUNITY SELdom PRESENTED FOR $10,000.—An active or special equal partner will be admitted for the above sum, and required to take exclusive charge of the financial department, in an established reputable business, paying liberally, in which $15,000 or $20,000 can be invested, as may be required, against which an equal amount will be contributed; business hours from 10 A. M. to 3 P. M.; unexceptionable references will be given and required. Address FINANCIAL, Box No. 5,238.

A STOCK COMMISSION HOUSE, OF THE Regular Board, would make arrangements with a party of undoubted respectability for an active or special partnership, with capital; best of references given and required. Address A. & B., Post Office box No. 4,345.

STATIONERY.

DIARIES FOR 1869—EVERY VARIETY—also daily journals, from 25 cents to $5; expense books, blank books and stationery, at kinds; fine writing desks, portfolios, pocket-books, albums &c. FRANK LOUTREL, Stationers and Printers, 45 Maiden-lane.

MISCELLANEOUS.

CLEAR SIGHT SECURED BY THE use of the pur. French crystal glasses, obtained at CHAPMAN'S, No. 1,148 Broadway, above 26th-st.

BOARDING AND LODGING.

NO. 33 EAST 15TH-ST., NEAR IRVING-PLACE.—Handsome furnished rooms, with first-class board, to a gentleman and wife or a party of gentlemen; also a few day boarders.

A SMALL PRIVATE FAMILY WILL LET a nicely-furnished front room on third floor, without board, $3 per week; with breakfast, $4. Address B. Box No. 137 Times Office.

A PRIVATE FAMILY WILL LET A very desirable front room on second floor, furnished, with bath attached, with or without board. No. 112 East 17th-st., near Union-square.

NO. 44 WEST 33D-ST.—A PARLOR AND bedroom on parlor floor, and two large rooms above, to let, with or without private table; also reception room, suitable for a physician. References required.

TO LET—IN NINTH WARD, PARLOR AND bedroom, furnished, with partial board, to single middle-aged gentlemen; family private. Apply at No. 658 Greenwich-st.

FIFTH-AV., OPPOSITE THE BREVOORT House.—Superior suites of rooms with private table if desired. Also, single rooms with board, in the first-class house No. 16 5th-av.

A SUITE OF ROOMS ON THE SECOND floor, handsomely furnished; also a hall bed-room on the third floor to let with board. No. 13 West 24th-st.

NO. 2 WEST 43D-ST.—A PRIVATE FAMily will let a handsomely furnished parlor on first floor, and part or entire second floor, with board; private table if desired; references exchanged.

NO. 72 WEST 35TH-ST., BETWEEN 5th and 6th avs.—The second floor to let, with board; terms moderate; references exchanged.

SHIPPING.

STEAM TO GLASGOW AND DERRY. THE ANCHOR LINE.

favorite Clyde-built Steamers, are intended to sail

EVERY SATURDAY

From Pier No. 20, North River, 12 o'clock, noon.

EUROPA.....Jan. 7 CALEDONIA.....Jan. 23
ACADIA.....Jan. 9 BRITANNIA.....Jan. 30
IOWA.....Jan. 16 UNITED KINGDOM.Feb. 6

RATES PAYABLE IN CURRENCY.

Cabins, to Liverpool, Glasgow, or Derry, $80 and $75. Excursion tickets, good for 12 months, $160.
Steerage, to Glasgow or Derry, $30; intermediate, $35. Prepaid Certificates from these ports, $37.
Passengers booked to and from Hamburg, Havre, Rotterdam, Antwerp, &c., at very low rates.
Drafts issued payable at any bank in Great Britain and Ireland.
For further information apply at the Company's office, No. 6 bowling-green, New-York.

HENDERSON BROTHERS.

LIVERPOOL AND GREAT WESTERN STEAM COMPANY.

FOR LIVERPOOL.

From Pier No. 46 North River, WEDNESDAYS.

MINNESOTA.....2,935 tons.....Jan. 6 at —
COLORADO.....3,015 tons.....Jan. 20 at —
NEBRASKA.....3,392 tons.....Jan. 27 at —
MANHATTAN.....2,965 tons.....Feb. 3 at —

Cabin passage, $80, gold; steerage, $34, currency.

Tickets to bring out passengers from Europe can be obtained on reasonable terms.

For freight or passage, apply to

WILLIAMS & GUION, No. 71 Wall-st.

For steerage passage of

WILLIAMS & GUION, No. 29 Broadway.

NATIONAL LINE.

THE STEAMSHIP THE QUEEN, GROGAN, Will leave MONDAY, Dec. 28, at 12 M., from Pier No. 47 North River.

Passage to Liverpool or Queenstown: Cabin, $100; Steerage, $30, currency.

Steerage tickets from Liverpool or Queenstown, $37, currency.

Apply at the Company's office, Nos. 69 Broadway.

F. W. J. HURST, Manager.

STEAM COMMUNICATION DIRECT BETWEEN NEW-YORK AND NEW-ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA, VIA PANAMA.

THE PACIFIC MAIL NEW-ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIAN ROYAL MAIL COMPANY dispatch a steamer every month, sailing from Panama about the 20th, upon the arrival of the British Mail steamer at Aspinwall. The Pacific Mail Company's steamer leaving New-York for Aspinwall on the 6th of each month will make the necessary connection. Passengers and cargo booked through from New-York to the several Colonial ports.

A special steamer runs to the newly discovered gold region of Hokituka.

For further information regarding rates of freight, passage money, &c., apply at the Pacific Mail Steamship Company, No. 58 Wall-st., or to

CHARLES W. WEST, Agent,
No. 25 William-st., New-York.

PACIFIC MAIL STEAMSHIP COMPANY'S THROUGH LINE TO

CALIFORNIA AND CHINA.

Through rates, New-York to San Francisco:

First Cabin.		Second Cabin.	Steerage.
Outside.	Inside.		
$275	$225	$150	$75

Steamers of the above line leave Pier No. 42 North River, foot of Canal-st., at 12 o'clock noon.

FOUR TIMES A MONTH

On 1st, 9th, 16th and 24th,

except when those days fall on Sunday, then the day previous.

One hundred pounds baggage free to each adult. Medicine and attendance free.

The splendid new steamship ARIZONA, Capt. MAURY, connecting with GOLDEN CITY, Capt. CAVERLY,

Steamer leaving Jan. 9 connects closely with steamer JAPAN, leaving San Francisco Feb. 4, 1869, for China and Japan.

For passage tickets and all further information apply at the Company's ticket office on the wharf, foot of Canal-st.

R. BABY, Agent.

FOR ST. THOMAS AND BRAZIL.

UNITED STATES AND BRAZIL MAIL STEAM SHIP COMPANY.

REGULAR MAIL STEAMERS sailing on the 22d of every month:

MISSISSIPPI, Capt. GEO. B. SLOCUM, Dec. 22.
HERMAN, Capt. L. F. TIMMERMAN, Jan. 23.
SOUTH AMERICA, Capt. E. L. PINKLEPAUGH, Feb. 22.

These splendid steamers sail on schedule time, and call at St. Thomas, Pernambuco, Bahia and Rio de Janeiro, going and returning. For engagements of freight or passage, apply to

WM. R. GARRISON, Agent,
No. 5 Bowling-green, New-York.

FOR NASSAU, N. P.

UNDER CONTRACT WITH THE BAHAMA GOVERNMENT FOR CARRYING THE ROYAL MAILS.

THE ATLANTIC AND MAIL STEAMSHIP COMPANY will dispatch the splendid side-wheel steamer

COLUMBIA, Capt. E. VAN SICE, Dec. 31,

at 3 o'clock P. M., precisely, from Pier No. 4 North River. For engagements of freight or passage apply to

GEO. B. HARTSON, President. No. 5 Bowling-green

HAVANA, SISAL AND VERA CRUZ.—New-York and Mexican Mail Steamship Line, sailing every twenty days. The fine sid wheel steamship SAN FRANCISCO, Capt. CHARLES, will leave Pier No. 17 East River, on SATURDAY, Jan. 2, at 10 A. M. Passage to Havana, $65 currency. For freight or passage apply to

A. ALEXANDRE & SONS, No. 44 Beaver-st.

UNITED STATES MAIL TO HAVANA.

ATLANTIC MAIL STEAMSHIP COMPANY, SAILING REGULARLY EVERY THURSDAY, AT 3 o'clock P. M. precisely from Pier No. 4 North river.

COLUMBUS, Capt. E. VAN SICE, via Nassau, Dec. 31.
MANHATTAN, Capt. M. B. CROWELL, Jan. 14, 1869.
MORRO CASTLE, Capt. E. ADAMS, Jan. 14.

For freight or passage apply to

GEO. B. HARTSON, President,
No. 5 Bowling-green, New-York.

FOR NEW-ORLEANS, CALLING AT HAVANA.

Carrying the United States mails.

The well-known side-wheel steamship

RAPIDAN, F. G. MALLORY, Commander,

will leave Pier No. 29 North River, foot of Murray-st., SATURDAY, Jan. 2, at 3 o'clock P. M.

BIENVILLE follows.....Jan. 9
DE SOTO follows.....Jan. 16

Through bills of lading issued through to Galveston, Indianola, Lavacca and Rock Port, Texas; Mobile, Ala., and to all points on the Mississippi River.

No Havana freight received on day of sailing.

For freight or passage apply to

LIVINGSTON, FOX & CO., No. 88 Liberty-st.

FOR NEW-ORLEANS DIRECT, THE CROMWELL LINE.

Steamships of this Line will leave Pier No. 9 North River, at 3 o'clock P. M., as follows:

GEO. WASHINGTON.....SATURDAY, Jan. 2
CORTES.....NELSON, SATURDAY, Jan. 9

Freight taken for St. Louis, Mobile and Galveston at through rates.

For passage or freight apply to the agents,

H. B. CROMWELL & CO., No. 53 West-st.

FOR SAVANNAH, SEMI-WEEKLY. BLACK STAR INDEPENDENT LINE.

OPPOSITION TO MONOPOLY.

The first-class steamships THAMES will leave Pier No. 13 North River, on WEDNESDAY, Dec. 30, and MONTGOMERY on SATURDAY, Jan. 2, at 3 P. M.

For freight or passage apply to

R. LOWDEN, Agent, No. 93 West-st.

Cabin passage $20.

FOR CHARLESTON, S. C., THE FLORIDA PORTS AND THE SOUTH AND SOUTHWEST.—REGULAR LINE.—The A 1 fast and reliable steamship SAN MARCOS, Capt. NYDEN, Commander, will sail THURSDAY, Dec. 31, at 3 P. M., from Pier No. 8 North River. Cabin passage reduced to $15. Through bills of lading to all points South and Southwest. Agents in Charleston (HAVENEL & CO.) forward all goods free of commission.

ARTHUR LEARY, No. 73 William-st.

The fine steamship MAGNOLIA will sail on the following THURSDAY, Jan. 7.

NOTICE TO SHIPPERS BY PACIFIC MAIL Steamship Company.—Steamer ARIZONA sails on THURSDAY, Dec. 31, at 12 M., from Pier No. 42 North River.

Freight received until 4 P. M., WEDNESDAY, Dec. 30.

WELLS, FARGO & CO., Freight Agents.

UNITED STATES PASSPORT OFFICE, No. 261 Broadway, corner of Warren-street, third floor, room No. 9.

FREDERICK I. KING, Passport Agent.

DENTISTRY.

CHEOPLASTIC BONE TEETH INSERTED over roots without metal, rubber or porcelain. Teeth built upon roots. Toothache cured instantly by external application with ESSENCE OF PALMETTO. Sold at $1 per bottle by the inventor, DR. SIGESMOND, No. 1,250 Broadway, near 32d-st.

A!!!—DR. G. H. RICH, NO. 43 EAST 9th-st., near Broadway, will perform all operations pertaining to the practice of dental surgery in a superior manner and on reasonable terms.

PUBLIC NOTICES.

CITY OF NEW-YORK—DEPARTMENT OF Finance, Bureau of the Receiver of Taxes, COURT-HOUSE, PARK, No. 32 CHAMBERS-ST., Dec. 16, 1868.

TO TAX-PAYERS:

Notice is hereby given to all persons who may have omitted to pay their taxes, to pay the same at this office before the 1st day of January, 1869. On and after that date interest at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum, calculated from Oct. 7, 1865, to day of payment, will be added.

On the 15th day of January prox. warrants will be issued for the collection of all personal taxes remaining unpaid on that date.

BERNARD SMYTH, Receiver.

MEDICAL.

SPECIAL NOTICE TO THE LADIES.—Ladies about to require nursing, who have not the convenience at home, can have pleasant and well-furnished rooms, superior board, nursing and medical attendance previous to and during confinement, at the residence of Dr. GRINDLE, No. 6 Amity-place, between Sixth and Amity sts. Having over eighteen years' successful and uninterrupted practice in the City guarantees relief in all female complaints, from whatever cause produced.

HORSES AND CARRIAGES.

A SADDLE PONY, 13 HANDS HIGH, kind and gentle under saddle, also in harness; has always been used by children; will be sold at a reasonable price, as the owner has no further use for her. To be seen and all further particulars at LEWIS' stable, No. 120 West 50th-st., near 6th-av.

SLEIGHS FOR SALE.—ONE SIX-SEAT sleigh, one two-seat and one four-seat sleighs, two business sleighs; also one second-hand top and one no-top buggy, for sale cheap at No. 226 Spring-st., corner Clarke.

$30 WILL BUY A GOOD HORSE, 15 hands high, as the owner has no use for him. Inquire at No. 6 9th-av.

CITY REAL ESTATE.

FOR SALE, AT A BARGAIN—24 LOTS, together or in parcels, on 118th and 119th sts., 10th-av., near Morningside Park, high land, commanding a fine view of the Sound and surrounding country. Apply to JOHN H. MORRIS, No. 133 West 42d-st.; or, WILLIAM H. RAYNOR, No. 6 Pine-st.

BEFORE YOU RENT A HOUSE, OBTAIN a copy of WYCKOFF & LITTLE'S REAL ESTATE BULLETIN, published and corrected weekly for gratuitous distribution, at No. 151 Montague-st., Brooklyn, and No. 74 Cedar-st., New-York; mailed free on application.

BUSINESS PROPERTY.—FOR SALE, premises No. 62 Hudson-st., and No. 10 Worth-st., 24x75 and 26x80; these lots connect, forming an L. Terms easy. Address WM. B. ROSS, No. 38 Wall-st.

COUNTRY REAL ESTATE.

ORANGE, N. J.—VILLAS, VILLA SITES AND farms, a great variety, beautifully situated one hour from New-York, for sale low. Also, country seats and houses to let for the season, or year, by BLACKWELL & SMITH, No. 249 Broadway, New-York, 9 to 11 A. M.; Orange, corner Main and Cone sts., 1 to 5 P. M.

FINE INVESTMENT.—VALUABLE BUILding plots, ten, twenty or thirty acres, beautifully located, high ground, on Central-av., three-quarters of a mile from McComb's Dam; terms to suit.

W. P. SEYMOUR, No. 171 Broadway.

BROOKLYN REAL ESTATE.

BEFORE YOU BUY ANY PROPERTY obtain a copy of WYCKOFF & LITTLE'S REAL ESTATE BULLETIN, published and corrected weekly for gratuitous distribution, at No. 151 Montague-st., Brooklyn, and No. 74 Cedar-st., New-York. Mailed free on application.

STORES, &C., TO LET.

OFFICES TO LET IN TIMES BUILDING, Nos. 38, 39 and 40 Park-row.

On second, third and fourth stories. They are large, spacious, and splendidly lighted from front and rear. The building is thoroughly fireproof, thereby saving all charges of insurance and hazard incident to fire.

Inquire of GEO. JONES, Times Office.

RAILROADS.

TWELVE DAYS TO SAN FRANCISCO, VIA UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD AND WELLS, FARGO & CO.'S

FIRST-CLASS PASSENGER COACHES, BETWEEN the Railroad termini.

Passengers and Express matter carried through on mail time.

For further information apply at the General Office of the Company,

No. 84 BROADWAY, NEW-YORK,

where through tickets can be purchased.

WELLS, FARGO & CO.

PEIPHER'S DAILY LINE OF TRANSPORTATION.

Peipher's Daily Line will receive and transport goods and merchandise to Harrisburg and stations beyond, from the depot of the Morris and Essex Railroad Company, Pier No. 2, North River. All goods received up to 9 o'clock P. M. will be forwarded the same day. Freight taken at lowest rates and forwarded with dispatch.

Mark goods "Via Peipner Daily Line to Harrisburg, Penn."

J. E. MONTGOMERY,
Proprietor Peipher Line.

LONG ISLAND RAILROAD.

Leave James-slip 8:30 A. M., Mail train for Greenport; 10 A. M., Northport, Huntington and Glen Cove; 3 P. M., Express, River Head; 4 P. M., Northport, Huntington and Glen Cove; 5:30 P. M., Farmingdale and way stations. All trains connect with branch to Hempstead. Sunday train at 9 A. M. from

MORE ABOUT FISH-CULTURE.

Growing Interest in the Subject—The Convention of Fish Commissioners—What it is to Do and what it Should Do.

To the Editor of the New-York Times:

It is gratifying to see an interest developing in the important subject of the restoration of our inland fisheries, even though it may be occasionally displayed in very critical correspondence between a distinguished member of the New-York Commission and a prominent and well-known authority on the art of fishing (as well as dressing.) The sharp criticisms of Messrs. ROOSEVELT and SCOTT upon each other, which have filled for some time past the columns of our sporting and agricultural papers, have most undeniably the one good effect at least, of disseminating information on an interesting subject, and a vital interest which finds the chief opposition to its restoration to its former prosperity in the general ignorance of the public as to its great importance and vast advantages. This ignorance is wide-spread, but I am glad to note a great desire to know more about the subject, and think it should be one of the principal purposes of the convention which is to assemble here on Dec. 29, to arrange for the more general distribution of their knowledge on this subject. I lately published in *Harper's Magazine*, for popular rather than scientific readers, a brief account of the history and practice of fish culture. Since its issue I have received from all parts of the country many dozens of letters inquiring where more elaborate works of a practical character on the same subject were to be obtained. I have found it a difficult question to answer, for I have found that few or no works have been written on fishing, save those which teach the art of taking rather than that of cultivating the finny tribe. I have been compelled to reply in each instance that there is not at this time in print a single exhaustive work on the subject, excepting that of Dr. THADDEUS NORRIS, entitled *American Fish Culture*, published by PORTER & COATES, Philadelphia,—a valuable and entertaining volume, embellished with numerous diagrams of the best hatching apparatus. Mr. GENIO C. SCOTT's work on the same subject, now in the press of HARPER & BROTHERS, New-York, and to be published in the Spring, will be a most complete hand-book of the art in all its phases. Dr. J. H. SLACK, proprietor of the Tracidale Ponds, near Bloomsbury, N. J., writes me that he is preparing a series of articles on the subject for the *American Naturalist*, which, judging from the known familiarity of the author with his subject—he being a thoroughly educated naturalist and practical pisciculturist—will undoubtedly be a valuable addition to our knowledge of the art. These are private efforts for the education of the people which I think it highly important the Fish Commissioners, shortly to assemble here, should promptly second by publications of their own.

Certainly they will find that the general ignorance of the people will constitute the most difficult opposition which they will have to encounter. This has been the case in all great enterprises which call for the exercise of the peculiar faith which comes only by knowledge. The prejudice among the ignorant, who have so long abused their unrestricted fishing privileges, and the avaricious, who have for years obstructed and defiled the principal fishing waters, will not be more difficult to overcome than the apathy of those who are in positions to encourage and promote the establishment of "fish factories" for the stocking of streams, but who either know or care nothing for the interests involved in the subject. Mr. R. B. ROOSEVELT relates that Mr. SETH GREEN, while experimenting, a year ago, on the hatching of shad in the Connecticut River, had to lay on the bank of the stream, pistol in hand, and protect his hatching box from the depredations of the ignorant and prejudiced fishermen and farmers of the vicinity. I have often wondered since I read the statement if the people of the neighborhood, after watching GREEN's operations (which appeared senseless to them because they could not understand their purpose or imagine their possible results,) did not turn away from him with something of the disgust which the Louisiana planters who never fired their rifles at anything smaller than a wild turkey, felt for AUDUBON, the naturalist, who still lives in the legends of the Louisiana Arcadia, as the big loafer who went about shooting sparrows and humming birds with a shot gun. One of these days SETH GREEN, lying guard over his shad-hatching box, GEHIN and REMY ensconced in a tree studying the habits of fish in the spawning season, and AUDUBON on his back for days studying through his telescope the manner in which the woodpecker uses his hind claw, will be companion pictures of equal interest to naturalists. What AUDUBON's patient labors accomplished all know. GEHIN and REMY's studies have resulted in the restoration of the French inland fisheries. Twenty years hence SETH GREEN's efforts will be acknowledged as the beginning of a movement which will have then restored fish in the greatest plenty to the now nearly exhausted waters of America.

Of course the principal opposition to the stocking of the river comes from the fishermen, whose traffic will be interfered with by the necessary prohibition for a few years of all fishing, and those manufacturers who have mills on the streams, and who refuse to improve them as required by the law so as to admit of the passage of the fish. But there is also opposition on the part of those not peculiarly interested. As an instance of the difficulty of overcoming the prejudices of the ignorant, I may mention the case of a Massachusetts gentleman, whom I am not at liberty to name, but who gave me the facts directly. He asked permission of the Massachusetts Legislature to stock with shad a small stream which ran through the town in which he resided, offering to do it on a large scale at his own expense, merely stipulating that the citizens of the town should be prohibited for three years from fishing in the stream with nets and other destructive means abhorrent to the true angler. He framed and forwarded a bill covering these points. The Committee into whose hands it fell, before reporting on it ordered it to be published in the papers of the village. The consequence was a public meeting of the citizens and a protest to the Legislature against the passage of the bill, on the ground that the privileges of the majority of the citizens ought not to be curtailed for the advantage or gratification of one man. Of course the bill was tabled. Had it been passed, the one public-spirited citizen would have placed a few million of shad in the stream, which would have returned at the end of the third year, full grown and fat, to afford the finest fishing and most delectable food for the whole town.

I endeavored some time ago to get the Central Park Commissioners interested in the establishment of an ichthyological museum in the park, in which fish might be cultivated as they are on various private farms in the country. The project was suggested in your paper a few weeks ago. The Commissioner with whom I conversed on the subject was of the opinion that nothing could be done in the matter—he did not say because of the want of money or because he thought the scheme impracticable, or the results to be obtained inadequate. Of the feasibility of the scheme—the only questionable point, since the beauty and interest of such an establishment will be readily conceded—I asked the opinion of several practical pisciculturists. Mr. STEPHEN H. AINSWORTH, of West Bloomfield, N. Y., a practical pisciculturist of many years experience, wrote in reply as follows:

DEAR SIR: Ponds of the 4th Novamber, wishing my opinion as to the feasibility of growing brook trout, lake trout, salmon, shad, black bass, pickerel, and other varieties of fish, and hatching their ova in the waters of Central Park, is received.

There is not the least doubt about hatching and growing, artificially or naturally, all kinds of fish that spawn in the Spring or Summer to the full extent of the water supply and ponds provided for them in Central Park, and, if well fed, in growing them in vast numbers to large size and great profit. My opinion is that the temperature of the water in the Croton reservoirs will be found about right through Summer for hatching and growing all varieties of Summer-spawning fish. Were I there, I could tell in a moment whether the water would hatch and grow trout or not. If desired, I would go down for the purpose. There is certainly no doubt about growing all summer-spawning fish to perfection.

Mr. GENIO C. SCOTT, whose efforts to popularize this subject are well known, wrote me as follows, in reply to the same inquiries, addressed to Mr. AINSWORTH:

DEAR SIR: An establishment for propagating salmon and trout in Central Park is certainly as important to this country as is the one at Marly to France; and indeed much more so, for in that country they have them at all the waters in the parks connected with the various châteaux, while here we have none which are free to the people for studying the *modus operandi* for increasing the stock of game fishes by artificial fecundation.

I venture to state that no other improvement could be made so cheaply in Central and Prospect Parks, and which would promise such favorable results in affording instruction to the people, for cheapening food fishes, and interesting all classes to the importance of the subject, as the erection of such useful aquaria as you propose, and the keeping them fed with the waters which supply the cities of Brooklyn and New-York.

I have alluded to these instances solely to illustrate the opposition which the Fish Commissioners will have to encounter both from the ignorance of the mass of the people and the apathy of those in influential places. It will be found exceedingly difficult to influence the Legislature of New-York to action on this subject. There is no speculation in the scheme, and legislation cannot be advanced through the cupidity of legislators; they will have to be educated up to the importance of the subject before any desirable result will be attained. It is to be hoped, therefore, that the Fish Commissioners in their report will not confine themselves to the instruction solely of each other. It is not necessary only that they should learn each other's experience; it is of even more consequence just now that their masters, the people, should be educated to support them in their efforts to accomplish that which is to the majority of our people an untried experiment—an impossible, incomprehensible achievement, only dreamed of by such lunatics as conceived the steam-engine and telegraph.

WILLIAM F. G. SHANKS.

The Fire Marshal's Report.

Following is the report of Fire-Marshal BRACKETT, being the result of his investigation of the causes of fire occurring from October 27 till December 8, inclusive:

Oct. 27, 3 A. M.—Fire was discovered in the dwelling house of J. SCHUYLER ANDERSON, at Highbridge, occupied by CHARLES C. BROADWAY. The fire was discovered by the family. It evidently originated in the cellar, in a part used for storage of shavings and wood, of which there seems to have been a large quantity on hand. The servant was there late the night previous. Although there are some suspicious circumstances connected with it, I am of the opinion that the fire was the result of careless ness on the part of some of the family.

Nov. 3, 10 P. M., Nos. 715 and 717 East Eleventh-street.—Fire was discovered in the feed mill of B. SCHWARTZ. From the evidence it is apparent the fire broke out in the stable, and it appears that a candle was used there the evening previous by the young man who closed up; this candle was extinguished or supposed to have been so, and laid upon the floor of he stable. This probably caused the fire.

Nov. 4, 3:26 A. M., No. 806 Third-avenue.—Fire was discovered in the butcher's shop of SAML. KOHN. The fire apparently caught in the basement, to which all inmates of the house have access, emptying ashes and rubbish there constantly. After a long and careful examination of the case I am unable to arrive at a satisfactory conclusion regarding the origin of this fire.

Nov. 6, 9 P. M., No. 187 Church-street.—Fire originated in the kitchen of the restaurant of PLATT & DUFFY, from some accidental cause unknown. It proved quite disastrous, extending to the adjoining buildings, Nos. 185 and 189.

Nov. 7, 1:20 A. M., Nos. 3 and 5 Bedford-street.—Fire discovered on third floor, occupied by HALL, LABAUGH & CO., caused by sparks from stovepipe igniting rubbish behind fireboard. From this the fire communicated to shavings on floor, and thence to a workbench and a quantity of lumber.

Nov. 13, 10 P. M., No. 50 Park place.—Fire was discovered in the wool warehouse of BAUENDAHL & CO. The origin of the fire was at first wrapped in mystery, but further investigation showed it to have been caused by the improper construction of a grate in the adjoining building, No. 52.

Nov. 13, 7:40 P. M., Atlantic Dock, Brooklyn.—Fire was discovered on board the steam elevator *Manhattan*. The specific cause of the fire has not been ascertained. It was doubtless owing to the carelessness of the watchman in charge, who deserted his post about an hour before the fire.

Nov. 13, 10:55 P. M., No. 164 Greene-street.

Nov. 14, 11:45 P. M., No. 480 Broadway.—Fire was discovered in laundry of hotel of H. F. STEWART, at above number. The servants were at work there quite late that evening, and the fire was evidently caused by their neglect to take proper care of the fire.

Nov. 16, 9 P. M., No. 951 Third-avenue.—Fire originated in stable occupied by JAS. HEATH, and caused by his carelessness in using a candle in his stable.

Nov. 17, 8:08 P. M., No. 301 Bleecker-street.—Fire discovered in grocery of THEO. C. EGER, a few moments after the store had been closed, caused by the carelessness of the occupants or customers. It originated in a barrel directly beneath the gas-burner. Extinguished with very slight damage.

Nov. 17, 6:30 P. M., No. 42 Nassau-street.—Fire was discovered on third floor, occupied by HOWARD & STOVER, printers; this was an incendiary fire; the party, a boy, was sent to kindle the fire by persons in the opposite building; the son of the janitor was arrested, but was not identified; extinguished with very slight damage.

Nov. 17, 12:30 P. M., One Hundred and Second-street, between Eighth and Ninth avenues.—This fire originated in an upper room, used for storing and working hemp, and may have been caused by the spontaneous combustion of said hemp. Another fire, however, has occurred since the above date on same premises, which is evidently of an incendiary character, and this induces the opinion that the above fire was of a similar character; the latter is still under investigation.

Nov. 17, 9:45 P. M., One Hundred and Twenty-ninth-street, between Second and Third avenues.—Fire was discovered in the mill of PAYNE & LANE, destroying that and some property adjoining. The cause of the fire could not be positively ascertained, but it was probably the result of carelessness on the part of the watchman in charge of the premises.

Nov. 18, 9:55 P. M., No. 340 Seventh-avenue.—Fire was discovered in the second-hand clothing store of SAMUEL MANDEL, caused by the explosion of a kerosene lamp, and resulting in a damage of some $2,000.

Nov. 19, 2:18 A. M., No. 11 Laight-street.—Fire discovered in the confectionary establishment of J. B. Rivera; caused by the carelessness of workmen in the drying-room.

Nov. 20, 5:20 A. M., No. 32 John-street.—Fire was discovered on fourth floor of above premises by the janitor of the building. On investigation it was found to have been caused by an imperfect flue.

Nov. 22, 1:30 P. M., No. 21 Forsyth-street.—Fire was discovered on fourth floor, in a rear room; occupant absent. Extinguished with slight damage. Caused by carelessness of occupant leaving some hot ashes and coal in a box on top of some kindling wood.

Nov. 20, 3:42 P.M., Nos. 59 and 61 Mangin-street.—Fire was discovered in loft of stable attached to above premises, spreading to factory adjoining and resulting in a loss of about $5,000. This fire was evidently of incendiary origin, but efforts to discover the perpetrator have failed.

Nov. 24, 8 P. M., No. 115 Broadway.—Fire was discovered in the law office of C. BAINBRIDGE SMITH, caused by coal falling from grate upon the floor. The office boy put fresh coals upon the fire before leaving.

Nov. 24, 1 A. M., No. 111 Broadway.—Fire was discovered in upper part of building, originating in loft where clothes were hung to dry. The precise cause could not be ascertained, but from the best information which could be ascertained it is supposed to have been caused by the carelessness of some member of the janitor's family in using a candle in the loft of the previous evening.

Nov. 27, 9:30 P. M., No. 26 Grove street.—Fire was discovered in the engine-room of the furniture establishment of Robert Paton. The cause of the fire has not been positively ascertained. The engineer and superintendent appear to have taken all proper care to prevent fire, and are well spoken of as steady, careful men. There is no doubt of the accidental character of the fire.

Dec. 1, 12:05 P. M., No. 473 Broome-street.—Fire was discovered on second floor in apartments of Mr. DONSAY, whose family were absent at the time. There was a hot fire in the stove, and clothes hanging very near it, and a quantity of kindling wood piled almost against it. The fire originated in the immediate vicinity of these articles.

Dec. 2, 2:45 A. M., No. 528 Fifth-street.—Fire was discovered in shop of Mr. MARTIN on second floor, caused by the carelessness of a workman in lighting and smoking his pipe.

Dec. 2, 7:53 A. M., Second-avenue, between One Hundred and Twelfth and One Hundred and Thirteenth-streets.—Fire discovered on first floor, in apartments of A. W. RANDALL, caused by the carelessness of Mr. RANDALL in lighting a match by the bedside.

Dec. 3, 5 P. M., Nos. 66 and 68 Sheriff-street.—Fire was discovered in the back part of the store among some rags which had been lying there about two months. The cause of fire could not be ascertained, but there is a supposition that it was kindled by some mischievous boys.

Dec. 3, 4:57 A. M., Nos. 172 and 174 Mercer-street.—Fire was discovered in the workshop of POTTIER & STYMUS, evidently caused by the careless manner in which the stove was arranged.

Dec. 4, 10:15 A. M., No. 66 Hester-street.—Fire discovered in attic room, occupied by ANNIE MASON, who left there about an hour previous. The fire was caused by the defective connection of stovepipe passing through from adjoining room.

Dec. 4, 3:40 A. M., No. 514 Broadway.—Fire discovered in the Theatre Comique, caused by the excessive heat from the furnace igniting the woodwork about the register.

Dec. 6, 12:17 A. M., No. 455 Seventh-avenue.—Fire was discovered in second floor, in vacant apartments. A family were about moving in and had been cleaning the previous day. A fire had been kindled in a fireplace which had not been used for years, and the fire originated from some defect in the fireplace or chimney.

Dec. 4, 12:30 P. M., No. 119 Mulberry-street.—Fire was discovered in the cellar, in which was a quantity of hay and some potatoes. Parties had been removing their potatoes a short time before, using a piece of candle without a candlestick. This was left burning, and evidently set fire to the hay.

Dec. 6, 9:15 P. M., French's Hotel.—Fire was discovered in a closet at head of first flight of stairs, caused by the pipes from boiler being overheated and setting fire to rubbish and paper in closet.

Dec. 6, 3:55 A. M., No. 31 East Twenty-second-street.—Fire was discovered in cellar of above premises, burning through basement floor; caused by the negligence of gas-fitters who had been putting in a new meter.

Dec. 8, 2 P. M., Forty-seventh-street and Fourth-avenue.—Fire was discovered among some bales of hay at Harlem Railroad hay depot. Originated from sparks from a passing engine. About sixty bales of hay were destroyed.

Criminal Carelessness in Blasting.

On Thursday morning, about 10 o'clock, a heavy blast was fired where workmen are engaged on the beer vaults in the rear of EBBLING BROS.' new lager-beer brewery, on Carr-avenue, Morrisania. A large oblong piece of rock, which would probably weigh 100 pounds, was thrown with great force over 100 feet above the top of the brewery, revolving with a loud noise as it went. After spending its upward force it fell, crashing through the roof of the saloon of GOTLIEB SCHOTT, on the next lot, passing through the upper floor into the next room. In the attic a servant girl was at work, the rock passing within a few feet of her. In the room below Mrs. SCHOTT lay sick, just recovering from a dangerous illness. The stone fell within a little distance of the bed, the lime, broken lath, and other materials of the wreck covering the floor and bed. Both of the females were very much frightened by the accident, and it was almost a miracle that they escaped with their lives.

Another Fearful Kerosene Accident.

A frightful kerosene burning occurred near High Bridge on Tuesday evening, in the house of a Mr. BULLMER, by which his wife and two daughters, aged 10 and 19, were fatally burned. An attempt to fill a lamp which was lighted caused the explosion. Two other children escaped. The house took fire, but the flames were extinguished by the neighbors. Mrs. BULLMER and daughters are dead. Only last year, in a house close adjoining, two lives were lost in a similar manner.

POLICE COURTS.

THE TOMBS—CUDDY, ALDERMAN.

A DEER LARCENY.

CHARLES F. LADD, an employe in DAVID N. GOULD's restaurant, at No. 35 Nassau-street, caused the arrest of JAMES WILLIAMS, yesterday morning, as the latter had made so free as to carry off a carcase of venison, valued at $20, which had been hung up at the door. Officer BRITTMAN, of the First Precinct, pursued the thief and caught him while still in possession of the plunder. When arraigned before the Acting Magistrate, WILLIAMS was held for trial.

INDECENT ASSAULT.

THOMAS O'SHAUGHNESSY, a brutal-looking fellow, was arraigned before the Court on a charge of having committed an indecent assault upon the person of a little girl named MARGARET QUINLAN, aged 9 years, whom he had enticed into the cellar of the tenement-house, No. 1 Batavia-street. ALICE WELSH, one of the occupants of the above premises, preferred the charge and testified to the facts. O'SHAUGHNESSY was locked up for trial at the Special Sessions.

ASSAULTING OFFICERS.

At an early hour yesterday morning, Officer MICHAEL DORNEY, of the Sixth Precinct, arrested MARTIN RAFFERTY for disorderly conduct, when the latter turned upon the officer, knocked him down and then kicked him in the side and face. RAFFERTY was arraigned before the Acting Magistrate yesterday, and fully committed for trial in default of bail.

MICHAEL REYNOLDS, proprietor of a low dram-shop in Mulberry-street, accosted Officer BOUTON, of the Fourteenth Ward, on Friday, and requested him to go with him and quell a disturbance. The officer responded to the call with alacrity, and soon found himself in a hallway near the corner of Mott and Hester streets, which he entered in company with REYNOLDS. Scarcely had the policeman passed the threshold than he found himself attacked by a gang of ruffians, who, headed by REYNOLDS, soon succeeded in severely beating their deluded victim. The noise made by the gang, coupled with the alarm given by Officer BOUTON, soon called to his assistance Officers LACEY and DORAN, of the Fourteenth Precinct, who ran down to the scene, when they were also set upon and severely handled. Officer BOUTON lost his club in the *melée*, and both DORAN and he had their shields of office torn from their persons by some of the assailants. A rare scene of clubbing followed, as was eminently proper under the circumstances, and the three officers succeeded, after a desperate struggle, in dispersing the gang and capturing their ringleader, REYNOLDS, who was locked up. A few minutes after his incarceration, FRANCIS REYNOLDS, a brother of the prisoner, and a little boy, came to the Station-house and surrendered the two shields, stating that they had picked them up in the street. MICHAEL REYNOLDS was, yesterday, arraigned before the Acting Magistrate, and committed to receive the charge of assault preferred against the prisoner by Officer BOUTON, and actually discharged him on the spot. Political influence of a scurvy character is understood to have been the controling power in the matter.

JEFFERSON MARKET—DODGE, JUSTICE.

THEFTS OF CLOTHING.

WILLIAM SMITH, a colored man, was arraigned for the theft of a quantity of female apparel from AMELIA NEUBER, No. 4 Depau-row. He denied his guilt, saying the articles were given to him by a man, but was committed, in default of $300 bail, for trial at the General Sessions.

MICHAEL GARLAND pleaded guilty to stealing a suit of clothes worth $50 from XAVIER LAMBERT, No. 7 Fifth-street, and was committed, in default of $1,000 bail, for trial at the General Sessions.

A SERIOUS JOKE.

Sunday evening, the 6th of December, ADAM KLUM, a youth of about 18 years, entered an apartment of HENRY MILLER, No. 426 East Seventeenth-street, where he found a red-hot stove. In a spirit of wild mischief he threw a large quantity of red pepper upon the stove, and hastily fled. The effects of his freak were instantaneous and far more serious than he had intended. The fumes of the burning pepper penetrated to every room of the huge tenement-house, and all the inmates fled, sneezing and coughing, to the street, for a breath of fresh air. In the apartments of Mr. MILLER the joke was almost attended with fatal results. The children were dragged from the rooms with the blood spurting from their mouths and nostrils, and, although carried into the street with all possible speed, it was some time before they recovered sufficiently to be considered out of danger. A warrant for the arrest of KLUM was obtained by MILLER, but the arrest was not effected until yesterday. Upon the arraignment of the prisoner the complainant relented, and KLUM was only required to give bail for his good behavior.

ESSEX MARKET—SHANDLEY, JUSTICE.

A WATCH STOLEN.

A complaint was made by PATRICK DALY, of No. 324 Eighth-avenue, that on the 23d inst. his watch was stolen by ADAM SMITH, and produced a witness who had seen him and SMITH together, at No. 163½ Suffolk-street, where DALY was intoxicated, and SMITH took the watch, as he averred, for safe keeping. The accused was held to await an examination.

A SHOPLIFTER.

Yesterday morning WM. JOHNSON, and a man unknown, entered the store of LOUIS JARSCKY, in Avenue C, and while the unknown engaged the attention of the proprietor, JOHNSON seized a piece of cloth and ran off with it. He was pursued, and being captured, the cloth was recovered, and JOHNSON was sent to the Special Sessions for trial.

GENERAL CITY NEWS.

FIRES YESTERDAY.—At 3:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon, a fire broke out in the cellar of the rear tenement house, No. 166 Mulberry-street, caused by a quantity of loose straw catching fire from matches used in lighting a lamp. The flames caused only trifling damage....At 5:30 P. M., a second fire occurred in the distillery of Messrs. SCHWARTZ & EISNER, at Nos. 713 and 715 East Eleventh-street, though not at present in operation. The building is owned by JOHN BROGEREL, of No. 546 West Twenty-sixth street, and the aggregate loss is estimated at $5,000; no insurance. Fireman RICHARD DELANEY, of No. 611 East Fourteenth-street, and a member of Engine Company No. 25, fell in the street while on his way to this fire and was severely injured....At 6 P. M. a fire occurred on the fourth floor of No. 43 Greene-street, occupied by J. PFISTER & CO., glass cutters, when the firm sustained a loss of $1,500. The second and third floors were only slightly damaged. ALFRED BRADY owns the building and loses $1,000; fully insured. EDWARD MULLALY, a member of Metropolitan Engine Company No. 30, was severely injured by the engine being overturned on the corner of Broadway and Grand-street while proceeding to this fire....At 6:40 P. M. another fire occurred on the third floor of the tenement-house No. 69 Forsyth-street, occupied by JOSEPH STINER, who sustained a loss of $600 on furniture; insured for $500 in the Firemen's Fund. JAS. B. BRADY owns the premises, which are damaged to the extent of $150; insured.

BURGLARS IN HOWARD-STREET.—The Fourteenth Ward Police have at length discovered that on Wednesday night a gang of burglars gained an entrance to the carpenter-shop No. 7 Howard-street, after which they passed through the yard in the rear and tunneled their way into the store of J. D. BRODECK, dealer in furs, at No. 5 Howard-street. Fortunately for the proprietor, the thieves became alarmed in the midst of their operations and ran off, leaving all of their tools behind them, as well as a large quantity of valuable furs, all ready packed for removal.

ACCIDENTS YESTERDAY.—EDWARD EARLY, of No. 527 West Twenty-sixth-street, fell off his truck in West-street, and was seriously injured by the wheels passing over his body. He was taken to Bellevue Hospital....MARY PAGE, aged 60, fell in Forty-first-street, near Tenth-avenue, and dislocated a shoulder. She was taken to Bellevue Hospital....MARY ACKERMAN, aged 14, of No. 323 West Thirty-seventh-street, was run over by a horse and wagon in Thirty-sixth-street, and sustained severe injuries. ....ELIZABETH BARTA, aged 70, of No. 179 Prince-street, was run over yesterday in Thompson-street by a baker's wagon driven by JOHN LAMB. She was severely injured, and the driver was arrested.

A PERAMBULATING FIRE.—Yesterday forenoon, as Mr. JOSEPH S. WRIGHT, a farmer, on Long Island, was driving a wagon, loaded with hay, through Montgomery-street, on his road to a market, some unknown and malicious person set fire to the hay, which was soon consumed, as well as a portion of the wagon. Mr. WRIGHT thus sustained a loss of $100, and returned home quite chagrined and disconsolate.

INTERESTING LECTURE.—Dr. BOYNTON will repeat his illustrated lecture on "The Bible," with calcium light pictures and sacred songs, at the Cooper Institute, this (Sunday) evening. The admission is but ten cents—thus affording an opportunity for all to receive valuable instruction in the most pleasing shape.

FISH CULTURE.—At a meeting of the members of the Lyceum of Natural History, to be held to-morrow evening at the rooms of the Society, No. 58 Madison-square, Mr. GILLMAN, of England, will speak on fish culture. Mr. WATERHOUSE HAWKINS is among the invited guests.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF LETTERS, ARTS AND SCIENCES.—A meeting of the members of this Institute, for the organization of the Academy of the Natural Sciences, will be held at No. 37 Lafayette-place (Law School) on Tuesday, at 8 P. M.

FATAL ACCIDENT.—The death of FREDERICK MOOTZ, a German, who fell from a new building in Forty-fifth-street on the 23d inst., was announced yesterday by the Superintendent of St. Luke's Hospital. Coroner FLYNN will hold the necessary inquest.

MR. BARNUM ON TEMPERANCE.—P. T. BARNUM will lecture on Temperance, in the Baptist Church, Eighty-third-street, near Third-avenue, next Tuesday evening.

MINOR ITEMS.—MICHAEL DALTON, of Hudson City, was found yesterday, lying on the sidewalk in Washington-street, with a severe cut on the head, caused by a fall. He was removed to Bellevue Hospital....MICHAEL MCCARTY, of No. 28 Pell-street, quarreled yesterday with an unknown person in the hallway of No. 117 Mott-street, and received a severe cut on the head. He was taken to Bellevue Hospital....Miss LYDIA MORRIS, aged 22, of No. 623 Lexington-avenue, was knocked down by two large dogs in Fifty-second-street, near Third-avenue, when she had her collar bone broken....JOHN O'CONNOR, a peddler, was assaulted in Tenth-avenue, near Fourteenth-street, last night by a gang of unknown thieves, who robbed him of some jackets. He was only slightly injured, and was taken to No. 481 Cherry-street....Mr. WM. S. WHITNEY, of No. 114 East Eighteenth-street, had his pocket picked of $165 while stepping off car No. 69 of the Fourth-avenue line at Bleecker-street....MICHAEL DONOHUE, of No. 216 East Twenty-second-street, was stabbed in the face by MICHAEL MCGOVERN in a broil, when he was slightly wounded....A dead infant was found in the culvert on the corner of Jones and Fourth streets late last night....An unknown woman, aged about 60, leaped into the East River at pier No. 44 yesterday, when she was picked up, though in no exhausted a condition that death subsequently ensued....PATRICK FRITZ, aged 23, of No. 456 West Forty-second-street, was assaulted last night in Ninth-avenue, near Forty-first-street, when he received a terrific blow on the head and a stab wound in the arm. He was taken to Bellevue Hospital, and BANDRATZ LEUBLINE arrested as one of his assailants.

BROOKLYN NEWS.

FROZEN TO DEATH.—THOMAS HANCKS, the man who was found frozen in Schenck-street on Christmas morning, died in the City Hospital yesterday.

ARRESTS.—The Police of Brooklyn made 345 arrests during the past week.

NEW-JERSEY.

THE NEGRO-GERMAN ENCOUNTER IN NEWARK.—On Christmas Eve an encounter took place between a number of Germans and negroes at the lager-beer saloon, No. 109 McKenzie-street, Newark, owned by HARMANN BACHMANN. The negroes had hired the dancing-room of the house, and about forty of them had assembled for the purpose of enjoying themselves. A German took umbrage at a negro's remark, and used some threatening language. The negroes attempted to put him out; other white men went to his assistance, and a general *mêlée* was the result. Several black men were shot, and many white men severely injured by blows from glasses, &c. After the riot had subsided the house was sacked, it is said, by the negroes. On Christmas evening Officers FISCHER, WILLIAMS, JACOBI and TURBIT arrested the colored participants who were committed for trial, while not one white man has been taken into custody.

THE JERSEY CITY SKATING RINK.—The Jersey City Skating Rink will be ready for use to-morrow. The ice there at present is over six inches thick, resting on a solid foundation. At the opening on Monday evening, several professional skaters will exhibit the beauties of the art. During the season, an excellent band, under the direction of Mr. J. C. CLARKE, will play nightly. The ice in various parts of New-Jersey is in excellent condition. The meadows in Jersey City, under Bergen Hill, the Morris Canal, the flats of East Newark, the Passaic River and the Communipaw Cove are daily filled with large numbers of people of both sexes, who amuse themselves by "swinging round the circle," and performing innumerable evolutions on the frozen surface.

NEW MILITIA BILL.—At a recent meeting in Newark of officers of the State Militia, the new bill to organize the National Guard of New-Jersey was fully discussed. Among the changes proposed are these: The force is to be limited to sixty companies having a maximum of sixty-four men; instead of miscellaneous appropriations, $500 per annum will be voted to each company, out of which the men must equip themselves, selecting their own uniforms—provided, however, that the latter must be blue or gray; the State Rifle Corps will be disbanded. By the proposed bill an annual saving to the State of $20,000 or $30,000 per annum will be effected, and it is believed the organization will be placed on a much better footing.

FOUND DEAD.—An inquest was held before Coroner BOOTH at Paterson, yesterday, on the body of Mrs. ELIZABETH B. BISHOP, aged 70 years, who was found dead in bed. Dr. BOOTH was of opinion that death was caused by apoplexy, and the jury rendered a verdict to this effect. Mrs. BISHOP was a resident of Rock Mills, and was on a visit to some friends in Paterson.

FRAUD.—A woman residing in Bleecker-street, Newark, was committed for trial yesterday on the charge of having appropriated to her own use a suit of mourning, which she borrowed from a lady in Orange, under the pretence that it was sent for by another lady, who desired to attend the funeral of a deceased relative.

RUFFIANISM.—A gang of ruffians had a street affray in Paterson early on Friday evening, at the corner of Marshall and Clay streets, in which knives were freely used, and several of the contestants more or less cut. By the time the Police arrived the fight had terminated and the crowd had dispersed.

POLICE ARRESTS.—For the twenty-four hours ending yesterday morning the Police of Jersey City made eight arrests for drunkenness. Of these, two prisoners, named THOS. MULVAY and JAMES BERGEN, had to pay for getting inebriated and amusing themselves by throwing stones through windows.

FIRE.—A fire broke out at noon yesterday in the rear of TITUS' cracker bakery, Lombard-street, Newark, by which property to the amount of $7,000 was destroyed. The storeroom and stable, part of the main building and some flour and hay were destroyed.

LOST HIS HAT.—A gentleman on a New-Jersey Railroad train had his hat blown off yesterday while the cars were nearing the Hackensack Bridge. With a coolness quite refreshing he jumped off the platform, recovered his hat, and walked into Newark.

PAVONIA HORSE RAILROAD.—Mayor O'NEILL, of Jersey City, signed yesterday the ordinance passed at the last meeting of the Board of Aldermen, to authorize the Pavonia Horse Railroad Company to lay its tracks in certain streets of that city.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.—Messrs. HILLIERS, proprietors of the drug-mills in Hudson-street, Jersey City, presented on Christmas Eve each married man in their employment with a barrel of flour, and each single man with a sum of money.

ROBBERY.—A man named PATRICK MCGINNIS was arrested in Bergen, yesterday evening, by Officer MONROE, on a charge of having stolen a horse and wagon. He was committed for trial in default of $500 bail.

ACCIDENT.—A. B. COOK, a member of the Minnehaha Steam Engine Company, was shockingly cut on the head, and otherwise seriously injured yesterday, at Newark, through the falling of a dummy.

ACCIDENT.—A man named JOHN C. CORNER was accidently run over, on Friday evening, at Jersey City, by the tender to engine No. 6, and was considerably injured.

Foreign Markets.

PARIS, Saturday, Dec. 26.

The Bourse is firmer; Rentes, 70fr. 15c.

HAVRE, Saturday, Dec. 26.

COTTON has declined: Tres Ordinaire, on the spot, 122f., and Low Middlings, to arrive, 121f.

Passengers Sailed.

DEC. 26—*In steamship St. Laurent, for Havre*—Mrs. C. R P. Rogers, Miss A. Rogers, W. A. Rogers, T. S. Rogers, Mrs. Low, Miss Low, Mr. and Mrs. Matt Ellis, 2 children and servant, S. D. Nickerson, T. W. Lane, Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Lawrence, A. de Gas, C. E. Fisk Col. and Mrs. Kinney and servant, Mrs. Henshel and daughter, Dr. and Mrs. J. M. Rice, N. C. Flagg, Frank H. Daniels, A. T. Fulton, H. O'Neill, Mr. Forstmann, J. Peres and friend, Mr. and Mrs. Perrault and child, A. Loppin, Mr. and Mrs. D. Goode, Miss Pigeut, Mr. Perrussel, Mr. Pidoux, E. Fribourg, Emile Aubree, E. Lievre, Mr. McHenry and friend.

DEC. 26.—*In steamship City of London, for Liverpool*—Miss Knight, W. A. Goth, J. J. Dowd, W. A. Cook, Capt. Russell, H. M. Twenty-ninth Reg., Dr. Ellinsley, Jo. Mr. Tuckberry, Hollis Moore, Wm. Birkett, D. A. Merrick, Richard Cowan, Parry Jones, John Bradley, Mr. Smith, Miss Julia Hansen, W. E. Spencer, James McMonagery, Frank Hutchison and wife, Miss Margaret Tasker, Miss Agnes Kent, Francisco Durango.

In steamship Huntsville, for Savannah—A. Eberhardt, H. B. Baker, John L. Hooper, E. Hamis, William Bates, Charles Brooks, Daniel Hall, Alfred Robbins, John Robbins, David Johnson, Frank Jenning, John Dorr, John Clark, R. F. Kennard, Mr. Wells, son and servant, William Tyler, Charles Taylor, George Woodford, Stewart Thompson.

In steamship San Jacinto, for Savannah—Mr. and Mrs. S. Rogers, C. Townsend, Miss Susan Spooner, F. Clark, Jos. Nason, Mrs. R. M. Jordan, Mrs. Cobb, L. D. Campbell, Wm. Gunn, S. S. Beakman, and Mrs. J. H. Wiggins, Mr. Strong, Mrs. Juliet Fisk and infant, Mrs. C. B. King and child, Wm. F. Southgate, Mr. and Mrs. S. A. McLellan and 5 children, Mr. and Mrs. T. Hall and infant, J. Adams, E. O'Neill, T. O'Neill, John Reedy, C. F. Castleton, R. J. Benedict, Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Treedle, Miss C. A. Thompson, Master H. Thompson, A. M. Brainard, Q. F. Fairbrother, S. J. Trenton.

Passengers Arrived.

In steamship Cleopatra, from Savannah—Rev. M. Leik, Jos. Stern, J. F. McKenne, J. H. Mill, Mrs. Jennings, Miss Lizzie Carroll, Mrs. E. L. Folger, Miss Folger, A. M. Sanson, Wm. F. Seely, A. F. Hetchel, and 10 in the steerage.

MINIATURE ALMANAC—THIS DAY.

SUN RISES..... 7 22 | SUN SETS..... 4 32 | MOON SETS.... 4 59

Sandy Hook.. 5 33 | Gov. Island. 6 21 | Hell Gate.... 8 43

NEWS PACKAGES FOR THE PRESS.

Captains and pursers of vessels arriving at this port are requested to deliver packages addressed to the New-York Associated Press, only to parties exhibiting the written authority of J. W. Simonton, General Agent.

News packages for the *Journal of Commerce, Times, Tribune, World, Sun, Express, Evening Post, Commercial Advertiser, Staats Zeitung, New-Yorker Journal* and *New-Yorker Demokrat*, should also be delivered only to the same parties.

MARINE INTELLIGENCE.

NEW-YORK....SATURDAY, Dec. 26.

Cleared.

Steamships Roxana (Br.,) Winter, Savannah, G. F. Bulley; Isaac Bell, Bourne, Norfolk, &c., N. L. McCready & Co.; Neptune, Baker, Boston, W. P. Clyde; St. Laurent,